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Arab-Israeli Talks

'Text' of Syrian-Israeli Agreement on Golan Reported

TA2106125193 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 21 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] AL-MANAR has obtained the text of the Syrian-Israeli agreement over the Golan Heights. The agreement has been carried to Damascus and is being discussed there by the Syrian president with senior officials of his regime.

The agreement was reached in secret meetings away from the negotiating table and with the participation of the U.S. Administration and Arab capitals that have been playing a role for a long time in a bid to achieve this agreement.

Informed diplomatic sources told AL-MANAR that a U.S.-Syrian-Israeli committee is meeting these days in a European capital to discuss security arrangements and guarantees that Washington is prepared to implement.

The following is the text of the agreement:

First: The Golan Heights will be divided into three security regions. The first will be subject to a Syrian police force, the second to U.S. forces, and the third to international forces.

Second: U.S. warning stations will be set up over all the Golan Heights.

Third: Israel will be ready to leave the settlements within three years.

Fourth: The number of soldiers and military hardware on the Syrian side will be limited and will not include heavy equipment.

Fifth: There will be U.S. supervision (monitoring) of Syrian armament.

Sixth: A joint Syrian-Israeli military committee will be formed.

Seventh: Ambassadors will be exchanged upon the signing of the agreement.

Eighth: Normalization of relations between the two countries will begin immediately.

Israel Rejects U.S. Proposal on East Jerusalem

TA2206054093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jun 93 pp A1, A10

[Report by Ori Nir and 'Amos Be'er]

[Excerpt] Israel is refusing to sign a document determining that the issue of East Jerusalem will be discussed in the negotiations on the permanent arrangement, as the United States has proposed. Political sources in Jerusalem said last night that the instructions given the Israeli delegation to the negotiations allow it no flexibility regarding Jerusalem. According to them, if the Palestinians do not settle for the letter of assurances received from former Secretary of State James Baker, the dispute over adding the Jerusalem issue to the negotiations agenda may prevent the continuation of negotiations with the Palestinians.

Yesterday, in a bid to avoid the dispute, U.S. and Israeli representatives tried to convince the heads of the Palestinian delegation to immediately begin negotiations on matters of substance. This way, Israel is trying to prevent a situation in which the dispute over the status of East Jerusalem under the permanent arrangement might stop the parties from making progress on other issues.

Sources in Washington reported that Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, telephoned the heads of the Palestinian delegation, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and Faysal al-Husayni. Sources in the Israeli delegation reported that Rubinstein pleaded with the two "to set out a working plan to make progress" in the talks.

Israeli delegation sources said yesterday that Israel is offering to hand the Palestinians 80 percent of the Israeli authorities' (Civil Administration's) administrative powers and 50 percent of the Civil Administration budgets at an early date. Nevertheless, as one delegate pointed out: "We are eager to give more than they care to take." [passage omitted]

Rubinstein on Refusal To Address Jerusalem Issue

TA2206070493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Elyaqim Rubinstein, chief Israeli delegate to the talks with Jordan and the Palestinians, in Washington, by Mikha Friedman—live]

[Text] [Friedman] What is behind our delegations' feeling that Israel is eager to give the Syrians and the Palestinians more than they care to take? Do you mean to say that Syria and the Palestinians do not want to reach a peace agreement?

[Rubinstein] I would like to hope that they do want it. I do not know exactly what gave rise to that statement, but there is a grain of truth in the feeling that while the Israeli delegations have submitted some very serious proposals—I can definitely say this on behalf of my own delegation, which is negotiating with the Jordanian-Palestinian side, and the same was done in the Syrian and Lebanese contexts—our challenge has not been acknowledged.

[Friedman] Their conduct may be based on the expectation, which is supported by past experience, that when the talks break down, the United States will intervene, and any such U.S. intervention is bound to force Israel to

march another step or two forward so as to settle the differences. Do we believe this expectation stands a chance of being met?

[Rubinstein] I do not think Israel's fundamental stands are affected by any interests other than Israeli ones. We will not pay a price because someone decides to raise the issue of Jerusalem. We will not pay a price because someone refuses to negotiate. We will not pay a price for coming to the negotiating table. We will pay whatever we were willing to give in negotiations; we will pay a fair price as befitting any negotiations involving give and take. [preceding three words in English] There are areas in which we are ready to demonstrate some flexibility in compliance with Israeli interests, but not because Jerusalem is suddenly put at the crux and not because tactical demands are made. This is not the way to do things, and we will not be party to it. We will be party to fair negotiations [words indistinct].

[Friedman] You referred to Jerusalem, and it is no secret that the Palestinians are demanding an immediate Israeli commitment to discuss the future of East Jerusalem during the permanent arrangement stage. Israel has stated that the absence of a reference to Jerusalem in the document of principles does not mean that the future status of East Jerusalem is not up for negotiation. Can this statement be acceptable both to the Palestinians and to us? Can it salvage the talks?

[Rubinstein] I suggest that IDF Radio refrain from conducting negotiations on behalf of Israel, because that would be similar to my anchoring the morning newsreel. I think the Israeli position on the question of Jerusalem has not changed throughout the terms of our various governments. It is the fundamental position Israel has embraced since 1967. Undivided Jerusalem is to be under Israeli sovereignty, and this is anchored in Israeli legislation. The Palestinians accepted this principle when they came to the Madrid conference, and there is no reason to bring up the issue of Jerusalem at this point. In any event, it is not on the agenda. What I find sad in all this is that they come up with different issues each time: Resolution 242, Jerusalem, or something else. When this happens, everybody's energy is diverted to their demands; everyone is constantly dealing with it.

People in Israel must be asking themselves: What is taking them so long? What are all these negotiations about? Just meetings, comings, and goings. We, too, sometimes ask ourselves why these talks, which could at least have achieved significant progress in the sense that considerable powers would have been transferred to the Palestinians and they could have started running their own affairs by now, have not brought this about.

[Friedman] Elyaqim Rubinstein, chief Israeli delegate to the Washington peace talks, thank you very much.

[Rubinstein] Thank you and shalom.

Paper Criticizes U.S. Stance at Negotiations

PM2206104593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jun 93 p 11

[Bilal al-Hasan article: "Torpedoing the Settlement or Imposing It by Force?"]

[Text] Washington's attitude in the bilateral negotiations is one of clear alignment with Israel. In doing so, it threatens to torpedo the negotiations, or seeks to impose results on the Arabs by force.

The U.S. Administration's attitude toward the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations gives the impression that it wants one of the following two solutions: Torpedoing the negotiations or imposing the Israeli solution on the Arabs.

The Arab negotiators' fears regarding the ambiguity of the U.S. full partnership role and their fear that the United States is changing from being a judge to being a full partner of Israel only, appear to be materializing.

The United States consults very deeply with Israel on every plan and position and makes omissions, amendments, and changes accordingly, but it is very resentful when the Palestinian negotiators ask it to reaffirm its commitments. Furthermore, the United States sees the Israeli autonomy plan as a positive step forward and then totally ignores the Palestinian autonomy plan and refuses to see it as an answer to the Israeli plan. Christopher simply says that what is required now is an answer from the Arab side, and particularly the Palestinian side. This means that no Palestinian or Arab answer would be considered an answer by Washington unless it responds to the Israeli position and proposals. Israeli response to Arab and Palestinian proposals is neither a possibility nor a requirement. The George Bush administration, under James Baker's leadership, used to say: Let us take what has been agreed upon and build on it. That meant accepting only what Israel was proposing. That theory continues in Bill Clinton's administration under Warren Christopher's leadership. It accepts the Israeli plan and ignores the Palestinian plan, then asks the Palestinians for an answer to the Israeli proposals. There is another practical aspect to the continuation of that policy. The same man continues to play the U.S. part. Edward Djerejian is the Republican chosen by the Democrats to continue to supervise the negotiations and to tell everyone that the Americans might disagree on many things but they agree on supporting Israel.

As the 10th round begins, the Israeli position in the negotiations with the Arabs is as follows:

1. With the Lebanese negotiators: The Israeli negotiators have said that they are not there to implement resolution 425 calling for Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

2. With the Syrian negotiators: The Israeli negotiators have said that they first want to discuss security arrangements, the aim being to reduce the power of the Syrian Army.

3. With the Palestinian negotiators. The Israeli negotiators have said that Jerusalem is not a part of the occupied territories and is not open to negotiation.

These Israeli positions run contrary to the Madrid agreement provisions and the Bush initiative, and yet Warren Christopher wants us to respond to them. That is why we say that this U.S. attitude will lead to one of two possibilities: Either it will torpedo a solution or produce an attempt to impose it by force.

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief 'Abd-al-Majid Returns From Geneva

NC2106191393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid returned to Cairo from Geneva this afternoon following a visit of several days.

Upon arrival, 'Abd-al-Majid said he met Moroccan King Hassan II, Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, and several officials and discussed the Arab reconciliation initiative. He said he found responsiveness and support for that initiative in Morocco.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said he later visited Switzerland, where he attended a conference on relations between Arabs and the West, Eastern Europe, and Canada as well as bilateral relations between Mediterranean states. He delivered a speech at the opening session in which he dealt with the Arab-European dialogue and other issues concerning Arab and European states. [passage omitted]

* Boycott Official Comments on Conference

93LI00904 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Jun 93 p 6

[Boycott official Zuhayr 'Aqil interviewed by Salwa al-Ustuwani in Damascus: "Israel Boycott Measures Ongoing; Only an Arab Political Decision Will End Them"]

[Text] The 66th Conference of Regional Israel Boycott Office Liaison Officers in the Arab world ended in Damascus recently under the chairmanship of Zuhayr 'Aqil, the commissioner general of the boycott, without issuing an official communique as it usually does, giving the conference's agenda, recommendations, and measures taken. The atmosphere of the conference was rather vague, raising numerous questions, chiefly about the steadfastness of the Arab boycott of Israel in the face of pressure to repeal it exerted by the United States, Israel, and other Western countries, during the peace talks.

We had to put this question to the boycott's commissioner general, Mr. Zuhayr 'Aqil, who reaffirmed that the Arab boycott of Israel is extremely effective, and has not been—nor will it be—influenced by any pressures. "We are continuing our measures," he said, "and are steadfast in the face of these pressures, until the Arab political decision ending the Arab boycott of Israel is issued, after peace is achieved. This decision will come from the council of the Arab League. We only carry out orders, and so far nothing official has been announced, so we are continuing our boycott. The boycott was established by an Arab political decision, and it will be repealed by an Arab political decision. The pressure applied on our statesmen does not affect us. We have received no hints or decision on this subject, and we are not involved in the political sphere or its shifts. When the Arabs have their rights, then we will comment."

[Al-Ustuwani] It has been noted that the last meeting was held in a closed atmosphere and did not issue, as has usually been done, a final communique. Does that indicate a link between the current pressures and the peace talks?

['Aqil] The last meeting was like any regular conference. It studied firms that submitted documents that the conference investigated and enacted, that were considered ended. And banned companies submitted documents requesting the lifting of the ban. Other steps were taken regarding firms that still have relations with Israel. The fact is that we did not issue a communique in order to not cause any of the fuss that is sometimes stirred up erroneously by hostile media.

[Al-Ustuwani] Then may we know some of the important topics studied during the last meeting?

['Aqil] We studied the migration to Israel that occurred after the collapse of the Soviet Union and which also moved large numbers of immigrants to Israel from the former socialist bloc. We dealt with the topic of the companies and ships that transported these immigrants, and we enacted sanctions against the companies. We dealt with the subject of companies of various nationalities that built and helped to establish settlements. Their names were added to the blacklist; these were multinational companies. As to the companies that transported the Jews, they are still being investigated in the case of some countries, and this is not complete, along with Aeroflot, which is accused of transporting groups of immigrants to Israel. In this meeting we did not study the question of workers sent to Israel, because we studied the question of Jewish immigrants and the broad issue of the companies that transported them.

[Al-Ustuwani] What are the most important companies for which the ban was lifted in the last meeting?

['Aqil] The American company GTE—General Telephone and Electronics Corp.—which is an electronics firm. The American firm General Etestermand [name in English, as published] submitted the proper documents for the Czech airline, so that it is a closed subject after investigations were conducted.

The companies that were blacklisted were the Belgian firm Fabrique Nationale des Armes de Guerre, which is a company for the manufacture and import of military weapons. A ban was imposed upon other companies that were proved to be branches of Israeli firms, and which have complete relations with Israel. Business with the Yugoslav firm Yugometal Export and Import was banned because it participated in the construction of housing units in Israel; business with all its global branches was banned, too.

[Al-Ustuwani] The Gulf countries, among them Kuwait, have been subjected to American pressure to ease or end the boycott of Israel. Particularly since the Gulf war is over and Kuwait is in a phase of construction and development, there are many international firms who want work there. Do you think Kuwait will be influenced by this pressure?

['Aqil] Actually, after the Gulf war, there were campaigns abroad on the part of the United States and some European countries. Some of these countries enacted laws against the boycott—chiefly Germany, which enacted Law 24. The United States enacted a special law against the Arab boycott in 1976, making firms complying with the boycott agencies liable to punishment. The law was, in fact, strictly enforced with stiff fines, in the millions. Most recently the United States firm Baxter, a chemical utensils firm, was punished because it had submitted documents [to us] because of plans to build a serum factory in Syria. There was a Zionist campaign against it, which led to an investigation and cancellation of the contract—in spite of the fact that it had sumbitted all documents and had the ban lifted more than two years ago. But the Zionists were able to make it known and get it investigated. From my point of view, however, there is no evidence of any change in the thinking of the Arab or Gulf states, as far as repealing the boycott. I absolutely deny that some Gulf states have violated the boycott code or discontinued its measures as the result of pressures. I reaffirm that the presence of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the Emirates, and Bahrain at the recent Boycott meeting and their determination to continue the boycott, shows that the story of their caving in to pressure is a lie. Kuwait is assiduous in its boycott of Israel. U.S. companies dealing with Kuwait have had to deal with even more questions regarding the Arab economic boycott of Israel. Kuwaiti officials have requested to U.S. officials that the boycott issue not be linked with the subject of Kuwaiti-American relations. Kuwait is one of the strictest Arab countries when it comes to the boycott. One day one Gulf official said that "We will ease the boycott." That is just newspaper talk and there is absolutely nothing at the official level, nor has the boycott policy changed in the face of any pressure. Kuwait is now attending the meeting and is still acting as in the past. Thus far there is nothing to indicate that the boycott has been eased. We have been enforcing the principles of the boycott since it began 40 years ago, and we have never changed one thing, nor have we discussed amendments or changes in any conference. All the talk of easing the boycott, or of changes, is aimed at weakening Arab confidence in this agency. I reaffirm that the boycott agencies continue to work as they always have. This propaganda is twisted and hostile, intended to to promote the idea that the boycott has lost its effectiveness. The Arab boycott of Israel is still effective and ongoing, so I call upon Arab citizens not to be influenced by these rumors. Even Israel refused, in the past, in the Shamir era, to halt settlements in return for repealing the boycott. Nothing can stop the progress of the boycott, except an Arab political decision at the highest levels, and so far there has been no such decision.

[Al-Ustuwani] Have you then taken any new steps for the evolution of the boycott?

['Aqil] The boycott is always a changing activity. Its principles have changed and evolved with time, in the interests of the Arabs. In our work, we are always coming upon and confronting matters and problems studied in the conferences. We make decisions for the good of the boycott; we may perhaps have changed some wording, particularly when it comes to enforcing one policy or another. We will make a change if it is necessary to the evolution of the boycott—not in the interest of weakening it. There have been no changes in a number of years.

[Al-Ustuwani] What are the effects and repercussions of the Arab boycott on the Israeli economy?

['Aqil] Israel acknowledges $46 million in losses resulting from the Arab boycott; that is a direct loss. But the indirect costs to Israel and to those who cooperate with Israel are many, many times this amount, plus great losses and damage.

[Al-Ustuwani] What is the boycott's position toward the Islamic countries who it is said violate the boycott laws and occassionally take part in conferences?

['Aqil] The topic of Islamic countries and the boycott is not part of our speciality. The boycott is limited to the Arab countries, so we have no position on the Islamic countries. The principles of the Arab boycott are applied to them just as they are applied to foreign countries.

[Al-Ustuwani] Germany has made a decision, numbered 24, effective last May, to amend its foreign trade code. It would bar German export firms from complying with provisions of the Arab boycott. German officials said that they contacted Arab countries, and none of those countries were opposed because of their desire not to impair their relations with Germany. That suggests apathy on the part of the Arabs. What is your comment? What is the boycott's position?

['Aqil] The boycott's position on Germany's Law 24 is clear. The law still requires a certificate of origin naming the exporting firm and stating that the goods are of purely German origin. This wording is not new. In the past, the wording was negative, saying that none of the product contained anything of Israeli origin. This was

amended to the positive wording, and enforcement was left to the Arab countries. I reaffirm that the formula existed before the enactment of the German law. Talk that our principles having changed since the issuing of that law is incorrect. The Arab countries are still enforcing everything they did in the past. The measures were originally in force; the Arab countries have not complied with the German boycott law or changed their position just because of the new positive formula. Foreign countries that issue laws against the boycott are trying to please the United States and the Zionist lobby spread around the world. It is not in the interest of any foreign country to prefer dealing with Israel. It can export in the tens of billions to the Arab countries. It would be the loser by losing Arab markets—the Arabs would not be the losers.

[Al-Ustuwani] How does the Arab boycott of Israel deal with the infiltration of some Israeli goods and foreign goods of Israeli origin into Arab countries?

['Aqil] In every Arab country, the boycott agency's decisions are communicated, and copies are distributed to customs and to all customs posts. Constant monitoring of this infiltration is the only thing that can bJ done to confront it.

[Al-Ustuwani] We hear from time to time about violations in Cyprus or in Cypriot waters, where Israeli goods are transferred to Arab countries. Has the Arab boycott taken any steps regarding this?

['Aqil] Indeed there are violations via Cyprus and many other places where certificates of origin are altered and products are then exported to some Arab countries. We cannot take steps against this, because steps are taken by the customs authorities in the country into which the goods are imported. Israel resorts to these tricks in order to export its goods that do not sell. This was not examined in the recent meeting.

[Al-Ustuwani] What is the effect of the peace talks on your meetings and the decisions you have made, particularly since the Arabs negotiating have been asked to repeal the boycott to show good faith?

['Aqil] Naturally we do not so far view the talks optimistically, because the talks are faltering; nor do we see any sign that Israel will withdraw and restore the territories to their legitimate owners. Israel is not sincere in the peace talks and double-deals in every session. In general this is a political matter with no effect upon the course of the boycott. When peace comes, an Arab decision must serve to end the boycott in a way compatible with genuine peace. At that time we will carry out that decision. As to Israel's request that the Arabs lift the boycott to show good faith towards peace, we say: What have the Israelis offered the Arabs for us to give them this for free? The Israelis have given new proof of their hostility to peace by deporting 400 Palestinians, by repeated raids on Lebanese territory, and by closing the West Bank and Gaza Strip and terrorizing their inhabitants. And yet in the peace talks, they call for the lifting of the boycott. But in the negotiations what have the Israelis offered in good faith to the Arabs, that we should repeal the boycott as a good will gesture?

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Reportedly Resigns From Fatah After Dispute

NC2106143993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1404 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Tunis, 21 Jun (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat chaired a meeting of the Central Committee of the Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah, at noon today after threatening last night to resign his chairmanship of the committee.

Fatah sources said the Central Committee meetings are witnessing heated discussions and differences. 'Arafat objects to the conduct of committee member Hani al-Hasan, his failure to perform his duties, and his constant criticism of Fatah's stance on the peace negotiations, although the Central Committee had made a decision supporting Palestinian participation in these negotiations. 'Arafat also objects to al-Hasan's absence from the committee meetings.

[In a related report, Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic at 1400 GMT on 21 June adds the following: "Citing informed sources in Amman, The QATARI NEWS AGENCY reports that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has resigned his post as chairman of the Central Committee of the Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah, following a violent brawl with Central Council member Abu-Mahir.

["The sources affirm that 'Arafat has not responded to efforts to dissuade him from resigning. They add that disputes emerged within the Fatah Central Committee, which includes all the founders and leaders, during the meeting that ended in Tunis at dawn today."]

Al-Tibi Dismisses Reports

TA2106165193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1628 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Serious disagreements erupted this afternoon in the meeting of the Fatah Central Committee in Tunis. According to one report, Yasir 'Arafat resigned his position as Fatah's leader in the course of an argument about the organization's dire financial straits but later rescinded this decision. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports from the studio:

There is no doubt that Yasir 'Arafat felt uneasy this afternoon at the Fatah Central Committee deliberations in Tunis. The committee has been meeting for a few days, mainly to discuss the peace process and the negotiations in Washington. However, the financial distress felt by the PLO and Fatah is poignantly discussed in every meeting. During an argument about Fatah's empty

coffers in particular and those of the PLO in general, there were verbal exchanges between a committee member, Mahir Abu-Ghunaym, alias Abu-Mahir, and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

At our request, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi [Israeli Arab notable known for his ties with the PLO] spoke with PLO officials in Tunis. According to him, the reports of 'Arafat's resignation should be dismissed.

[Begin al-Tibi recording] Arguments occur, and in the heat of the argument each side voices its opinion. There is Palestinian democracy. Disagreements exist, and these should not be denied, but it is a long way from this to the report that Yasir 'Arafat has, as it were, resigned. This is totally unfounded.

About five minutes ago, I spoke with Hakam Bal'awi, the deputy secretary general of the central committee and the man who is supposed to be in charge of such affairs, and he categorically denied the reports, saying that they are totally unfounded and that they are only designed to undermine the status of the PLO, and especially the status of Fatah, which represents the mainstream within the organization. [end recording]

Al-Hasan Said Asked To Supervise Political File

TA2106132993 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 21 Jun 93 p 1

[Excerpt] AL-MANAR has learned that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has asked Hani al-Hasan, a Fatah Central Committee member and one of his most important political advisers, to supervise the political file, particularly because of the current grave and extremely delicate stage.

Al-Hasan left for Tunis last Saturday [19 June] after meeting in Cairo with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, political adviser to the Egyptian president.

Palestinian sources say that Hani al-Hasan is the person in the Palestinian arena most capable of steering the negotiations at this stage. He was one of the first advocates of a political solution and the author of the famous phrase: One who sows must reap.

It has been learned that a meeting that lasted more than two hours was held in the Tunisian capital between the Palestinian president and his adviser, Hani al-Hasan. [passage omitted]

Nusaybah: No Peace if Israel Insists on Jerusalem

TA2106154093 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 21 Jun 93 pp 1, 11

[Text] Jerusalem, QUDS PRESS—Dr. Sari Nusaybah, head of the technical committees of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has said that "there is not the slightest doubt that Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine." He stressed that "it will not be possible to achieve peace in the region if Israel persists in its stance on this issue and if it continues with its unilateral measures in East Jerusalem through which it is striving to impose the unrecognized law that it passed in 196[illegible] annexing Jerusalem."

Nusaybah, who made this statement to QUDS PRESS, was responding to remarks by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek accusing the Palestinian side of placing obstacles in the way of the talks by raising the issue of Jerusalem at the negotiating table.

Nusaybah added: "As Palestinians, we do not place obstacles to peace by demanding that our happiness be extended over our land and capital, to which we have natural, historic, and religious rights." Nusaybah said that Israel is creating an obstacle with its illusion that it will be possible to achieve peace by imposing its hegemony over Jerusalem.

The head of the technical teams explained that the issue of Jerusalem was raised at the negotiating table from the first round of talks and that the Palestinian side will continue to raise this issue, because as far as we are concerned it represents the core of the Palestinian problem.

In conclusion Nusaybah said: "Israel, Peres, and Kollek are dreaming if they think that we will back down on the issue of Jerusalem. We will never do so. Jerusalem will be Arab, Islamic, and the capital of Palestine."

Full Israeli Withdrawal to Green-Line Borders Urged

TA2106143793 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English in English 21 Jun 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Peace Process Can Be Rescued"]

[Text] The first week of the 10th round ended with the Palestinian and Israeli sides widely separated on several issues. The deadlock on many issues of substance prevents the signing of a declaration of principles by the two parties. The transfer of authority to the Palestinian self-government on all the occupied territories—including East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements—remains the main bone of contention that appears unbridgeable.

The role of the co-sponsors as full partners, especially that of the United States, is still not defined, and the Palestinian delegation is trying to get clear-cut answers from the State Department related to this role. An evenhanded, unbiased, effective and active role that is in line with the letters of assurances and invitation to the Madrid process is what is being sought.

Major issues under discussion explore Israeli readiness to accept economic independence and a single set of laws pertaining to all the land. Here again, that applies to East Jerusalem and the Israeli settlements. Here again, the

differences are deep and isolated; both sides simply will not be able to find common grounds.

It is feared that the 10th round, from its very beginning, will not deviate from the disappointment and routine of earlier rounds. And if the co-sponsors don't activate themselves in their role, the whole process is in danger.

Added to this deadlock is the dire human rights and economic conditions prevailing in the occupied territories. Israel continues to pursue the activists of the Intifadah, and the price has led to growing disenchantment with the peace process. Economic conditions are in a deep recession, with an almost total collapse of the economy and unemployment of over 50 percent of the potential labor force. These two essential factors narrow the room for maneuverability of the delegation and increase criticism of the process.

Moreover, these factors are assisting the growing opposition to the continuation of negotiations.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher is engrossed with Somalia and Bosnia, and has little time to attend to the simmering Middle East conflict. No movement is expected as a result, and with the advent of summer, some fear a long break in the negotiations might cripple any hope of advancement.

The Palestinians feel that progress can be made if Israel accepts the principle that guides negotiations on the Israeli-Syrian track—total peace for total withdrawal.

Israel has to withdraw fully to the borders of the "green line," defined on the eve of the June 1967 war for a peace treaty and for diplomatic, economical and cultural relations with the Palestinian state.

Hesitation, half measures, and ignoring the Jerusalem problem will lead nowhere.

Sources Detail Losses Caused by Blockade on Gaza

NC2106144993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0802 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources in Cairo affirm that losses to the Palestinian workers in the occupied Gaza Strip because of the Israeli military blockade on the strip amount to $500,000 a day.

The sources told MENA that the total losses to Gazan citizens because they were denied entry to Israel to work in Israeli factories and farms in April and May reached $35 million. This situation has had a severe effect on their living conditions, which already suffer from massive economic problems.

The sources said thousands of Palestinian workers in the Gaza Strip are forced to go to Israel and return to the strip every day because of rising unemployment in the strip and Israel continues to exhaust the strip's limited water and natural resources.

The sources noted that Israel's persistent policy on imposing a blockade on the Gaza Strip has caused huge losses for the Palestinian farmers. Large quantities of summer oranges and potatoes destined for distribution inside Israel, the West Bank, and Jordan have been damaged, the sources said.

Delegate Visits Amman To Plan Media Organization

TA2106172293 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Mr. Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, member of the advisory committee to the Palestinian delegation, arrived in Amman today. Informed sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that Abu-'Ayyash's visit to Amman and other capitals is related to preparations for setting up a Palestinian radio and television organization. The PLO had recently tasked Abu-'Ayyash with supervising the establishment of Palestinian radio and television.

Algeria

Al-Nahdah Leader on Prime Minister's Appeal

LD2206100893 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 22 Jun 93

[Text] The Higher State Council and Algerian political parties are due to meet shortly on the national level. The appeal of the prime minister to Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] supporters drew attention. Belaid Abdessalam stated that those not involved in terrorism are not enemies and that they must be persuaded to reconsider their choice. The moderate Islamic al-Nahdah movement reacts through its leader Abdallah Djaballah, who spoke to Jerome Bastion.

[Begin recording] [Djaballah] We encourage that kind of move, but we wish to see it take concrete forms on the ground, since the struggle is not against Islam nor against the Islamic current but rather against terrorism and violence.

[Bastion] Do you believe that there are elements in the FIS who reject the armed struggle?

[Djaballah] Several leaders of the former party reject violence and adopt the idea put forward by the authorities, however the problem is that they are not the main leaders.

[Bastion] What contact does al-Nahdah have with the former FIS rank and file?

[Djaballah] We have no contact with them since most of them are on the run or give no signs of life. To establish contacts in such a situation marked by insecurity risks attracting suspicion onto our movement. [end recording]

Higher State Council Transition Document Summarized

LD2106210293 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 jun 93

[Text] After three rounds of national dialogue, the Higher State Council [HSC] has presented the press and political parties a preliminary proposal that includes the basis for a national consensus on the transitional period. The document is in the form of a social contract about renewal and preparations for Algeria in the 21st century. The proposal is to be submitted for discussion not only by parties and associations, but by all cadres and citizens with a view to enriching contributions to the document, providing that the common denominators such as religion, language, and culture remain gains for everyone and are distanced from political bargaining. Ismail Efseh has read the document and makes the following summary:

[Efseh] Good evening ladies and gentlemen. The preliminary proposal released by the HSC includes the fundamental principles on which the Algerian state and nation are to be based. There is consensus by all sides that these principles, outlined gradually through the national movement and the principles of the 1 November revolution, are fundamental for building a modern and strong state that is committed to its religion, history, and culture, and open to the world.

Among these principles is the Algerian identity, with its constituent Islamic, Arab, and Berber elements. These constituent elements must not remain just ink on paper. Islam in Algeria will remain the state religion and one of the bases of society, and its values will be consolidated as a main element of the Algerian people's personality. Islam will also remain protected by the state, distanced from any partisan or group dominance or guardianship and away from any exploitation by any side.

As far as the Algerian nation is concerned, the official national language will be Arabic. The HSC document points to the need to take an interest in the people's national heritage, including the Berber heritage, in all its forms of expression and throughout the nation.

In the economic sphere, the way will be paved for a market economy and economic initiative. The state will be available to moderate on and to stimulate economic life, and to orient large and strategic sectors.

Departing from the premise of the dialogue that was held in three stages, the HSC proposes that the transitional period vary between a minimum of two years and a maximum of three. This period is to begin in the last week of December at the latest, which is at the end of the HSC's mandate.

As it is impossible to hold presidential and legislative elections within these dates, for various political and technical reasons, which most partners today accept, that period will be used to bring about the conditions necessary for the return of presidential and legislative elections.

During that period, provisions of the 1989 Constitution will remain in force, with the exception of those particular provisions relating to the presidential body and to the National People's Assembly. These two institutions will be ruled by transitional provisions. The transitional period will be devoted at the start to providing all necessary conditions to restoring and strengthening the state's prestige, reforming the general central and local administration and reinforcing the judicial portfolio.

In this period, the Constitution will be reviewed so as to better guarantee equilibrium between the authorities and institutions. This period will also be devoted to convening the presidential and legislative elections, which will make possible the strengthening and stability of authority for all time.

This period will also be concerned with making progress in the sphere of security so as to eradicate terrorism and ensure security for citizens and their possessions, and in the technical sphere to review the national voting card

system and the electoral law—that is, the methods employed for balloting and forming electoral constituencies.

On the political front, the transitional stage will be devoted to giving time to the political parties to complete their structures and organizations. This chance will also be seized to prepare the necessary legal articles for running the institutions outlined by the new constitution—that is, the law concerning the political parties, the information law, and the law concerning national councils will be reviewed.

Lastly, the transitional period will be used to resume structural reforms in the national economy and entrench and embody them in preparing the country for the resumption of the country's development projects while observing the new national and international pressures.

The transitional period will be administered with the participation of organized and legal political and social forces. Readiness to reject violence as a means for gaining power, to fight terrorism, and to be bound by the republican and democratic systems will be prerequisite conditions which should be accepted by all partners of the democratic administration of the transitional period. As far as institutions are concerned, it will mean setting up bodies for participation and consultations in which national and political forces will be represented.

The document also proposes transitional bodies, among which will be a presidential body. Thus, the transitional period will be administered by a body that will carry out the duties of the president of the Republic and administer the countries' affairs in relation with the bodies for participation and consultation that are due to be formed. The National Consultative Council, i.e., a transitional council, will include the state's representatives, as well as representatives of political parties, economic and social organizations, and the national collective movement. The representatives should, however, be chosen in accordance with their commitment to the national project, as well as their integrity and ability.

The document also proposed a transitional government, which would include able ministers prepared to fight for the sake of the national interest. The document also dwells upon a number of permanent bodies, among which would be the Higher Islamic Council, a body that would have the last say in all Islamic matters in the country, and an economic and social council, which would include representatives of national social and commercial agents and would be asked to stimulate, follow up, and implement the program for restructuring the economy as well as to evaluate development programs.

There will be also a structure for consulting problems concerning the state's youth, which will include representatives of the state in charge of youth sectors, and representatives of various constituents of Algerian youth. There will be also a higher council for education, a structure that will have to be established because of the need to guarantee a consultative framework of the educational policy. It will be liable for saving this policy from decisions dictated by circumstances and from impromptu measures. The main task of this council will be participation with the ensemble of the concerned partners in laying down a national policy of education and training. It will also take part in the periodical assessment of the educational system.

The document proposes setting up a project on a future society based on a break with monopolistic practices of politics and ideology. It is the subject of debate and enrichment for all parties, cadres and citizens, without any infringement on the constituents of the Algerian nation that took shape throughout history and through the national movement, and which was embodied by the 1 November revolution.

The document and its aims will be the subject of a national seminar.

Egypt

Al-Jama'ah, Al-Jihad Deny Role in Shubra Bomb Attack

NC2106183393 Paris AFP in English 1752 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, June 21 (AFP)—The al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] and Al-Jihad Muslim militant groups on Monday denied any involvement in a nail-packed bomb attack which killed seven Egyptians and wounded 20.

In separate statements they accused the government of responsibility for Friday's bomb in the Cairo slum district of Shubra.

Police have blamed Islamic militants for the bomb. On Sunday they named Al-Jihad, the group responsible for the 1981 assassination of president Anwar al-Sadat, as the culprit.

The al-Jama'ah accused the Egyptian media of trying to tarnish its reputation by laying blame on the outlawed group and charged that the government of President Husni Mubarak was "responsible or an accomplice" to the bombing.

Al-Jihad denounced the bombing and accused "the Jews, in coordination with the Egyptian government, of ordering the bombing to undermine Islamic militants in Egypt."

It called for a popular revolt in Egypt "to put an end to the treacherous" Mubarak regime.

The al-Jama'ah has claimed responsibility over the past year for attacks on police and foreign tourists, as part of a campaign to overthrow Mubarak's secular government.

Since March 1992, the militant campaign has claimed 165 lives, with three foreign tourists among the dead, according to an AFP toll.

Police Accused of Human Rights Abuse To Be Punished

NC2206120193 Paris AFP in English 1143 GMT 22 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, June 22 (AFP)—A top interior ministry official said Tuesday that Egyptian police accused of violating the human rights of suspects will be "punished" as part of new measures to stamp out abuse.

The announcement follows a critical report last month by the London-based human rights organisation, Amnesty International, which said Egyptian security forces seem to have been given a "license to kill with impunity."

Amnesty criticised "grave human rights violations" in Egypt and said last year saw an "alarming" number of incidents in which members of Islamic militant groups were killed, allegedly while attempting to escape arrest.

General Baha'-al-Din Ibrahim, an assistant to Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi, said that al-Alfi ordered an end to "mass arrests" of Islamic militant suspects as well as collective punishment.

Alfi has also instructed police to "make use of firearms or force only when it is extremely necessary."

"A new department has been set up to verify that the new policy of the ministry is respected and ensure that the interior minister's orders are executed," Ibrahim said.

He said measures were taken to "punish" policemen who violate human rights through torture and mistreatment of suspects.

"Over the past 16 months, 46 policemen and 14 officers were detained on charges of having violated human rights while 36 other officers were punished for minor violations," he said.

Suspects cannot be detained for more than 30 days without a legal decision in line with emergency laws dating to 1981, Ibrahim said, adding that not more than 700 Islamic militant suspects were currently under arrest.

But according to unofficial estimates there could be as many as 3,000 detainees.

Since a resurgence of fundamentalist violence in March 1992, police have generally attributed the attacks to the underground al- Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, which has also claimed responsibility for most of them.

Elsewhere Ibrahim said contacts were underway between Egypt and Pakistan to study means of extraditing from Pakistan Egyptian militants suspected of links with a recent wave of attacks in Egypt.

Arrest of 3 al-Jihad Figures in Peshawar Sought

NC2006081793 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 16 Jun 93 p 1

[Report by Tharwat Shalabi]

[Excerpt] AL-AHALI has learned that the Higher State Security Prosecution asked the Egyptian security agencies to notify Interpol to arrest three of the leading members of the extremist al-Jihad Organization who are currently in Peshawar, Pakistan. They are involved in the case on reorganizing the al-Jihad Organization. The request was made to allow the prosecution to complete its investigations and refer the case to the judiciary. The three leading figures are Ayman al-Zawahiri, the organization leader and mufti and author of a book called "Bitter Harvest," which represents the ideology of the defendants; Ahmad Salamah Mabruk; and 'Ali al-Rashidi. [passage omitted]

Bag Containing Explosives Found in Airport Area

NC2206110393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1028 GMT 22 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)—Security organs found a plastic bag containing a quantity of explosives, a large number of bullets, four RPG rounds, and a bar [qalib] of TNT near Sheraton houses, close to Cairo airport, at noon today.

According to a security source, the area was immediately evacuated, as a unit of army sappers examined the bag. The sappers found no timer in the bag, which was removed from the area.

Iranian Opposition Figure on Attempts To Destabilize Egypt

NC2106210693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Mohammad Sayyed Mohaddesin, head of the Foreign Relations Department in the National Council of the Iranian Resistance, has stated that the Iranian regime focuses its attention on exporting terrorism to Egypt as the most powerful and influential Arab and Islamic country. In a statement to Cairo radio today, he said the Tehran government's aggressive policy believes that destabilizing Egypt means the inevitable fall of all Arab and Islamic countries, particularly the Arab Gulf countries, in the hands of the Iranian mullahs.

Mohammad Sayyed Mohaddesin said he believed the Iranian scheme will fail, noting the growing importance of Egypt's Islamic, political, and cultural role in the Arab and Islamic arenas. He called on the Egyptian people to courageously and wisely confront Iranian terrorism to achieve peace and stability in Egypt. He called on the Iranian people to support the Iranian resistance in its effort to save Iran from the rule of the mullahs. He condemned the Iranian regime's attempts at the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna

to justify its repressive and inhuman practices against the Iranian people. He stressed that the mullahs regime in Iran persists in its ugly violations of human rights in Iran and in exporting bloody terrorism to Arab and Islamic countries.

Interior Minister, Mufti Comment on Religious Policy

NC2106141593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0912 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA)—Minister of Interior Hasan al-Alfi has affirmed that police forces are using all means to confront the terrorists who mean to destroy this peaceful country. He emphasized that no one has harmed Islam as those terrorists have and that their practices and acts contradict Islam's teachings.

Addressing a ceremony held by the Interior Ministry to mark the new Hegira year last night, he noted that the police operate in a state whose official religion is Islam. The Constitution, he said, stipulates that Islam is the primary source of legislation.

He added that the police support a prudent religious policy and that the police surely benefit when genuine religious teachings take a leading role in life and society, especially because enhancing Islam's principles in society has a positive role in deterring man from committing crimes.

Addressing the ceremony, Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, mufti of the republic, reviewed lessons learned from the prophet's journey [from Mecca to Medina] and said peace is the most important grace with which God endowed man, noting that security men are at the helm of those who protect this peace. He said this peace must be preserved and that terrorism must be fought with all means. He affirmed that shari'ah must be applied to perpetrators of these (?terrorist) acts, because these acts constitute a betrayal of the religion before a betrayal of the country.

He called on the terrorists to return to their senses and make the love of and loyalty to the homeland part of their creed. [passage omitted]

Musa Criticizes Proposal To Divide Bosnia

NC1906154093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1342 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today criticized the proposal to divide Bosnia-Herzegovina into three parts. He said this proposal comes in the context of an "incorrect" dealing with the Bosnia-Herzegovina problem to end the issue and ruin the Vance-Owen plan.

He added this is what Egypt feared would come out of the five- party plan on Bosnia. He explained that he conveyed Egypt's view to the ambassadors of the five countries—the United States, Russia, France, Britain, and Spain. He emphasized that the five-party initiative implies that the Vance-Owen plan will be amended, noting that this change will help disintegrate and divide the state of Bosnia-Herzegovina and worsen the situation there. He said: We view all these measures with regret and cannot support them.

Commenting on the Middle East peace process in press statements today, Musa said Egypt has not yet received any information on a possible visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region. He affirmed that Egypt followed up the recent peace talks in Washington.

On the situation in South Africa, he said the next African summit will discuss the developments there. He added that the OAU secretary general will submit a report on the situation in South Africa to the OAU Ministerial Council, due to begin meeting in Cairo on Monday [21 June]. Musa noted that no action can be taken on the situation in South Africa or on its future and membership in the OAU before the desired progress is made, a coalition government is formed, and the transition is made from the current stage to a phasing toward the complete abolition of racial discrimination and the formation of a democratic government. He said that the participation or non-participation of South Africa in the next African summit has nothing to do with the host country, rather it concerns the organization as a whole.

U.S. Arms 'Blockade' on Egypt Viewed

NC2206102193 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jun 93 p 3

[Report by 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn: "AL-SHA'B Reveals the Extent of the U.S. Arms Blockade of Egypt"]

[Excerpt] Despite all that the Egyptian Government has given to the United States during and after the Gulf war, Washington has always justified its arms blockade against us by pointing to the "receding sources of threats to Egypt in light of its current relations with Israel." Even when the Egyptians tried to change this U.S. position by underlining the new threats represented, in their view, by Iran, Sudan, and religious extremism—Israel not among them"—the U.S. reply was to ignore them. What is needed is that our strength should be just adequate to meet the requirements of serving the United States in the region and nothing beyond that!!

The United States managed a well-put-together swindle during the second Gulf war when it made many promises to strengthen Egypt's military power, just so that it could get the political backing and the necessary military facilities for the Western alliance during the war. The consolation for many officials here was that the destruction of Iraq would mean an increased and a more prominent regional role for Egypt, especially in the Gulf. But as soon as the war was over, the U.S. promises evaporated, the Damascus Declaration came to a halt, and Egypt entered an "arms drought" since the United States has a semi-monopoly for Egyptian arms. Even the U.S. campaign against Iran on the pretext of the latter's

arms program has not resulted in a U.S. response to Egypt's demands for armaments, despite all the offers given by our officials about their readiness to back the United States in containing the Iranian danger!!

The first signs of the change in the U.S. position and the start of this blockade came in the signals Egypt has received from Washington saying that this is the last time U.S. military aid to Egypt will remain at the traditional level of $1.3 billion. The U.S. side gave several reasons for this measure, the most important of which were:

—U.S. priorities have changed, and so has the need to review allocations of foreign aid.

—Egypt no longer faces the military threats that it faced in the past, in light of its relations with Israel and its role in the current peace process.

—The United States is seeking to reduce arms in the Middle East, and this must be reflected in its military aid to the countries in the region. (Note that the reduction does not affect Israel)

—Washington is seeking to reduce its overall military spending, both the Pentagon budget and foreign military aid.

These were the overall excuses that Egypt has heard from the U.S. for reducing military aid and failing to respond to Egypt's arms request.

Since 1988, the United States has ignored Egypt's requests to obtain $300 million in U.S. aid to finance the purchase of two Vickers 209 submarines from Germany. At the beginning of 1990, contacts began with the submarine manufacturing German company H.D.W [preceding initials in English] to implement the program with funding from U.S. aid. The German company made an agreement with the U.S. (Ingler) Company to build the submarines. It was agreed that the steel will be purchased from the United States and processed in Germany and the (Ingler) Company would then assemble the two submarines. This required the allocation of funds for Egypt from the U.S. aid to pay for the cost of work carried out in Germany.

Egypt asked the U.S. side to meet this request quickly during [former] U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney's visit to Egypt in May 1991, but the State Department rejected the request although Congress amended the U.S. Defense Department's budget law to accommodate the Egyptian request.

The amendment stipulated that the Defense Department or any of its main branches did not oppose the building of conventional submarines in private shipyards for countries benefiting from the U.S. security aid program. Israel benefited from this amendment by funding the building of three Vickers 209 submarines at the same German company. Besides, the U.S. (Ingler) Company built three of the most up-to-date missile-equipped frigates for Israel, the first of which was commissioned in March.

However, what is allowed to Israel is forbidden to Egypt. The United States froze the Egyptian request for the two submarines, despite the Egyptian side's assurance of the extreme importance of the project to protect shipping in the Suez Canal, which could be crippled by sinking a single ship. Protecting shipping requires tightening control over hostile ships in the areas around the canal. At this point, Egypt had no choice but to publicly invite bids from companies to build these submarines.

Egypt received a shipment of the U.S. M-16 tanks. The shipment was transported from the European theater of operations to Egypt following an agreement on the reduction of conventional weapons between the former Soviet Union and the United States. After that, plans to produce the U.S. M1-A1 tank in Egypt began to face difficulties.

The production of the M1-A1 tank was scheduled to start in 1991. However, it turns out that the U.S. production lines of this tank will close down in 1995. This means that the cost of the Egyptian production program will increase by $500 million, which would adversely affect the marketing of the tank for third parties.

Therefore, it was suggested that Egypt should switch to the production of the U.S. M1-A2 tank. For this switch to take place, the production lines in Egypt should be either replaced or adapted, a process that would take at least four years, cost $325 million, and require amending the memorandum of understanding signed with the United States concerning the production of the M1-A1, which in turn requires congressional approval.

The U.S. position on other Egyptian demands became intransigent. Gordon Sullivan, U.S. Army chief of staff, in his recent visit to Egypt on 14 April, turned down an Egyptian request for the M113 vehicle, saying that the vehicle is not available in U.S. warehouses. It is a known fact that the United States supplies Israel with equipment from U.S. active warehouses rather than redundant stockpiles. This was the case with the Apache planes and Harpoon missiles supplied to Israel by the United States.

Sullivan also failed to give a positive answer to Egyptian requests for advanced training. Instead, the U.S. Army chief of staff enumerated the perils posed by Iran due to its cooperation with Korea in missiles and stated the need for cooperation in order to face these perils. [passage omitted]

Musa, Sudanese Foreign Minister Meet To Discuss Hala'ib

NC2106143593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA)—Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih met with Foreign Minister 'Amr

Musa last night. Following the meeting, Abu-Salih said differences between Egypt and Sudan over the Hala'ib problem can be ironed out bilaterally. He expressed the hope that this problem will be solved through the joint Egyptian-Sudanese committee. He added that Sudan is against settling problems by military force.

Abu-Salih said Sudan wants the situation in Hala'ib to return to the way it was before October 1992. He noted that a similar dispute over Hala'ib broke out in 1958 but was peacefully solved then. He explained that Sudan wants the Egyptian brothers to return the situation to the way it was before October 1992. The joint committee should then solve the problem through bilateral negotiations.

Abu-Salih stressed that Sudan's relations with Egypt are eternal and will remain so.

Cairo Said To Distance Itself From Sudanese Opposition

PM2206095793 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Jun 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Cairo Rejects Request for Sudanese Opposition Radio"]

[Excerpt] AL-HAYAH learned yesterday that the Egyptian Government has rejected three requests submitted by a Sudanese opposition delegation headed by retired Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, former commander of the Sudanese Army, among them a request for setting up an anti-Khartoum radio station. And in a sudden development Egypt has deported a Sudanese oppositionist who asked to open an office in order to organize Sudanese opposition ranks. The Sudanese foreign minister has announced that he has invited his Egyptian opposite number to visit Khartoum to discuss resolving the border dispute between the two countries. An Egyptian diplomatic source welcomed the Sudanese invitation.

Sources in Cairo have said that Egypt has turned down three requests submitted by a Sudanese opposition delegation headed by the lieutenant general representing the military wing of the Sudanese opposition. The three requests are: That Cairo sponsor a meeting grouping all Sudanese opposition groups, that Cairo allow the opposition to set up a radio station opposed to the Sudanese regime, and that Cairo arrange to hold a meeting between an opposition delegation and Sudanese President Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir in the presence of President Husni Mubarak on the sidelines of the OAU meetings to be held in Cairo on 28 June.

It has been learned that Cairo deported a Sudanese oppositionist named Hamzah Ahmad Muhammad Mahmud upon his arrival in Egypt after he requested permission to open a branch of an opposition organization whose aim is to unite Sudanese opposition ranks and to work to topple Al-Bashir's regime, who closed an association led by Mahmud in Khartoum in 1990.

Mahmud recruited Sudanese elements after persuading them to accept the "jihad in Khartoum" slogan. He called members of organization "fedayeen." He asked them to pay an annual contribution of 50 Egyptian pounds.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that a delegation from the Democratic National Grouping (Sudanese opposition) will head for Kuwait to obtain clarifications from its government regarding allegations that the leader of a Sudanese opposition party has obtained financial support from the Kuwait Government. Brigadier al-Hadi al-Bishri, one of the opposition grouping's leaders, has denied that. He said that "this is absolutely illogical, and our confidence in opposition party leaders is bigger than these false accusations." He added that the grouping has never discussed the matter, "which requires evidence and documents." He said that the opposition is well aware of Egypt's position of noninterference in the affairs of neighboring states, which is why the opposition has been anxious to hold its general conferences in Addis Ababa, London, and Nairobi. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Tribes Said Providing Weapons to 'Terrorists'

NC2006110393 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 14 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] A report prepared by the security services has revealed that Sudanese tribes residing in the border area are helping to provide weapons for the terrorists. The report says that terrorists who rob jewelry stores—most recently a jeweler's in al-Matariyah—do not risk trying to sell the stolen goods inside Egypt and instead exchange them for weapons, bartering with Sudanese tribes living on the Egyptian border. The report explains that the Sudanese tribesmen can obtain weapons easily inside Sudan.

The report continues: The terrorists are carrying out armed robberies in jewelry stores in line with a religious ruling issued by al-Jihad Organization's mufti 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. It is known as the rule of license [fatwa al-istihlal] and permits assault on the property of others in order to provide the necessary funds for the extremist groups.

The report, scrutinizing the terrorists' sources of finance, says that when the government blocked the donations sent by extremists living abroad in an effort to dry up the sources, the terrorists responded by establishing a domestic economic structure to augment the foreign assistance sent to them by Iran. They began to trade in clothing, foodstuffs, and drinks, a type of trade in which capital is quickly replaced. They are doing this without paying taxes or bothering to obtain official licenses.

The report also says that the extremists have founded publishing houses and schools with the aim of influencing the public's ideas. One such group owns 69 publishing houses in Egypt which are marketing books and leaflets propagating the Islamic group's ideas. The

state, recently alerted to the danger inherent in these private schools, has placed restrictions on their management and the parties with which they are affiliated.

Commentary Says Sudan, Iran 'Two Sides of Same Coin'

NC2106034693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1740 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Station Commentary by Mahmud Marzuq: "Red Lines in Tehran's and Khartoum Government Systems"]

[Text] The Iranian National Resistance Council announced this week that it possesses documents and tapes proving that there are nine terrorist training centers in the Suburbs of Tehran, Khartoum, and Port Sudan and that Iranian Pasdaran [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps] elements, supervised by Iranian intelligences services, are being paid by Tehran's mullah government to train extremists from several Arab and Muslim countries including Egyptians, Tunisians, and Algerians. The recent spate of blind terrorist acts in which innocent citizens died proves beyond doubt that these inhuman crimes are a vicious and foreign growth—unknown throughout 7,000 years of Egyptian history—that has been nurtured in Iran. Its ruling mullahs, who claim to be Muslims, are exporting this vicious growth to Egypt and other Islamic countries to destabilize them and terrorize their peaceable citizens. The method they use betrays a mental retardation that is rare in this age of immense scientific achievements.

Apparently Tehran's mullahs labor under the delusion that they are the official spokesmen of all Muslims and that their country has the power of the mufti over the temporal and spiritual affairs of all Muslims. They forget that Islam is a religion of tolerance, fraternity, and logic that serves the Muslims' interests. Islam does not resort to terrorism and intimidation by exploiting some misguided people who have been tempted by Tehran mullahs' forbidden money to perpetrate crimes against the Egyptian public—now a direct target of these ugly crimes.

We say it with sorrow: The Sudanese regime is the only regime that is helping Tehran's mullah regime to train terrorists and send them on sabotage missions in Arab countries, notably Egypt. The facts prove that Khartoum's rulers are receiving oil shipments and million of dollars in payment. Hence, we can say without hesitation that Iran and Sudan are two sides of the same coin. This is demonstrated by several remarkable facts that prove their involvement in terrorism. Their propaganda mouthpieces encourage terrorist attacks in Egypt. They also give succor to terrorism worldwide. This Iranian and Sudanese propaganda confronts the Islamic world with the fact of Iran's and Sudan's desperate cooperation to undermine the Muslim nations and subjugate their will. It is an evil cooperation that starkly contradicts Islamic principles, ideals, laws, and values.

Although the Iranian and Sudanese propaganda machines are dismayed by every Egyptian stance, Egypt will not be harmed by their barking [Nubah] against its principled positions, based as they are on Islamic ethics, frankness, inambiguity, justice, wisdom, and sobriety.

If these countries' media fail to learn from past lessons and experiences, they will only harm themselves. History will judge. As to chaste, peaceable Egypt, it will pursue its steadfast policy. Misguidance will not affect its security. Neither will lies succeed in overturning the facts except in some hating hearts and retarded minds in Iran and Sudan.

Egypt is God's country. God will smite those who wish to harm it. It will remain an oasis of security, peace, and stability. It will not be shaken by grudgeful media or the ploys of small people who collapse one after the other. The cunning of the vicious will rebound on them.

AL-AHRAM: Israel Will Not End Boycott Without Peace

NC2106072093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0608 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper affirms that Israel will not succeed in ending the Arab boycott imposed on it unless it contributes to building a just peace that will restore to the Arabs their rights and eliminate from their hearts the fear of hostile expansionist intentions which are becoming evident every day and need no proof.

In its editorial today, the paper says if Israel does this, the door will be open to it to live in peace, to realize its dream to be a state acceptable to the region, and to find a place to market its products, because Israel knows how huge the Arab market is.

The paper adds that Israel is trying anyway it can to end the Arab boycott without offering what will help achieve that goal, and it continues its hostile, intransigent measures in the occupied Arab territories.

The paper notes that the Israeli economy lost approximately 15 percent of its local products as result of the Arab boycott. This, the paper says, prompts Israel to circumvent the boycott by trying to glut European, African, and Asian markets with its products so that these products will indirectly enter Arab markets.

Mubarak Receives Credentials of 7 New Ambassadors

NC2206083693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 22 Jun 93

[All names as transliterated]

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received the credentials of seven new ambassadors today. They are Mauritanian Ambassador

Mohamed Fadhil Ould Daddah, Portuguese Ambassador Eduardo Fernando de Carvalho, Bangladesh Ambassador Tafil Karim Haydar, Burkina Faso Ambassador Amado Ouedraogo, Zambian Ambassador Angel Alfred Monda, Mozambican Ambassador Daniel Antonio, and Romanian Ambassador Radu Onoferi.

The ceremony was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Presidential Office Chief Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi.

Deputies Nominate Mubarak for Third Term

NC1906083893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 19 Jun 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo newspapers today highlight the issue of nominating President Mubarak for a third term. AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that a special People's Assembly session will be held on Wednesday 21 July to announce the nomination of President Mubarak for a third presidential term, 85 days before the expiration of the current presidential term. The session will begin with an announcement of the written proposal, submitted by 440 Assembly members so far, to nominate President Mubarak for a third term in office. These deputies represent 90 percent of the Assembly members. Under the Constitution, the nomination requires the signature of at least two thirds of the members.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives EC Parliamentary Delegation

LD1806224893 Tripoli JANA in English 1631 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Sayf [June] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received members of the European parliamentary delegation, which is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah, headed by Henri Saby, chairman of the European Parliamentary Committee for Co-operation and Development.

Opposition Spokesman Claims Pilgrims Detained

LD2106130293 Riyadh SPA in English 1239 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Riyadh, June 21, SPA—A Libyan opposition source said here last night that the Libyan authorities have been detaining some Libyan pilgrims who returned to their homeland after performing hajj. In a statement to the Voice of America (VOA), 'Ali al-Zaydan, a representative of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya, said the detained pilgrims had arrived Malta by air and proceeded from there to Libya by sea. When they arrived in Libya, they were arrested and taken to an unknown place, he said.

Al-Zaydan refuted the allegations of the Libyan regime, which said that the Saudi authorities had prevented the Libyans from performing hajj. Such allegations are fabricated and baseless, he said, adding "the Saudi authorities have never prevented the Libyans from performing hajj."

On the visit of some Libyans to occupied Jerusalem three weeks ago, al-Zaydan said they had arrived in Jerusalem via Egypt. They arrived in Egypt aboard buses owned by the Libyan Government and from there they proceeded to occupied Palestine, he said. Most of the Libyans who visited occupied Jerusalem are either employees of the Libyan intelligence organ or members of the revolutionary committees, he said. They would have never gone to occupied Palestine without the consent of Libyan President [as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Morocco

Bodies of Soldiers Killed in Somalia Returned

LD2106122593 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1010 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Rabat, 21 Jun, (MAP)—His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid presided over a ceremony at the military airport in Sale this morning to mark the arrival of the bodies of the martyrs. These martyrs, who recently died defending humanitarian principles and the loftiest ideals, were members of the Moroccan peacekeeping contingent in Somalia.

The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani, several members of the government, high-ranking officers of the royal armed forces, and a number of civilian and military personalities.

A Moroccan military mission went to Mogadishu last Saturday [19 June] on a visit to inspect the Moroccan contingent in Somalia.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Holds Talks, Ends Visit

LD1806231693 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, ended an official visit to the Moroccan capital, Rabat, which lasted three days, and left with his accompanying delegation for Kuwait today. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said in statement he made before leaving Rabat that Kuwait highly appreciates the efforts King Hassan II is exerting to achieve a settlement of the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners and hostages and hopes that his efforts culminate in success. He added that he appreciates King Hassan II endeavors to heal the rift in inter-Arab relations and restore Arab entente. At the same time, he pointed out that the current situation

existing among the Arab countries is not an easy one. He wished the Moroccan monarch success in his aspirations to close the Arab ranks.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad also held talks during his visit with his counterpart Abdellatif Filali, which focused on bilateral relations and issues of common interest. [passage omitted]

Report on Sudanese Foreign Minister's Remarks Denied

LD1906222193 Rabat MAP in English 1329 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Rabat, Jun. 19 (MAP)—The Embassy of Sudan in Rabat has categorically denied statements attributed by the daily AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT of Wednesday [16 June] to Sudanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih, saying that his country has been advised to take distance from a friendly country (Iran).

In a clarification statement published here Friday, the embassy of the Republic of Sudan in Morocco said the remarks attributed by the Arab daily to the minister were baseless and untrue.

The statement stressed the depth of relations and ties uniting Sudan and the Arab and Islamic countries.

It also confirmed that Sudan refrains from interfering in home affairs of those countries in accordance with the principles of its foreign policy.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT had reported that Sudanese foreign minister said that during his visit to Morocco he was advised to stand aloof from Iran, a report that Moroccan authorities denied.

Lambrani Chairs Meeting of Council of Ministers

LD1806202993 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers today, 18 June 1993, held a meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lambrani. During the meeting, the council studied the work of the four ministerial committees that were established to study the main issues defined in the royal letter addressed to the prime minister on 11 June 1993.

The issue relates to the following committees: Committee for Encouraging Investments; Committee on the Policy of Funding the National Economy; Committee on the Privatization Program; Committee for the Consolidation of the Rule of Law in the Business Sphere. [passage omitted]

Daily Reports 33 Women Running for Parliament

LD2106132393 Rabat MAP in English 1302 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Excerpt) Rabat, June 21 (MAP)—ANOUAL daily of the Organization for Democratic and Popular Action (OADP/leftist) notes that the number of women (33 candidates including 8 from the OADP) running for the parliamentary elections reflects the edging out of women in Morocco and deplores the low number of women candidates.

While some ascribe this weak participation to society and mentalities, the OADP daily argues that the Moroccan society is much more understanding towards women and recognizes their rights more than other Arab countries and said it is rather the under-development of some officials which hinders the full participation of women in political life. [passage omitted]

King Hassan Urges Citizens To Vote in Elections

LD2206050493 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2142 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Address by Morocco's King Hassan II from the Royal Palace in Rabat on 21 June—live]

[Excerpts] Praise be to God, and peace and prayers be upon our master Muhammad and his family and companions.

[Passage omitted] From last August until now, we have used every good means to make this election honest and open, as you and I would like to see it. In all objectivity, I can say that every law, provision, and order has been issued to achieve sound, open, and honest elections.

Now, all that remains is for us to rely on the conscience of everyone of us, whether in or outside the administration. Everyone ought to imagine, even for a moment, that Friday [25 June, election day], God willing, will be the day of celebration that I have been waiting for. God willing, I will be happy and proud to see Friday as a real day of celebration for every citizen, men and women. On Friday, dear people, you will be choosing who will be ruling you for six years, that is, if we count legislation from parliament, whether by its agreeing to it or in the form of draft laws that it initiates. This legislation will end, and this legislative period will finish exactly on the eve of the year 2000. We will be legislating for six years or more, and the legislation of this parliament will be recorded from 1993 and will be valid in the years 2010, 2015, and 2020. That is why I consider Friday a day of celebration. [passage omitted]

We must all be proud because we are heading toward an honorable goal during a tense and crucial time. My dear people, this is not the first time you are challenging history and turning that challenge into a shining victory, with strong foundations and results, which will be seen for years to come.

My dear people, you must all head to the polls on Friday so as not to be among those that God Almighty referred to in Surat al-Tawbah: They are very pleased to be among those left behind. [passage omitted]

Go, with God's blessings, to the ballot boxes. Go with the conviction that you are a pious people and that you will, God willing, make the right choice. God Almighty will inspire you with the right choice.

That is why I now turn to all the officials in the Kingdom of Morocco—and when I say officials, I mean administration officials and political parties. [passage omitted] Let every one of you be characterized as honest and having integrity. Let it be known that this act is a sacred act. My dear people, in these past few days you have followed the televised discussions and have heard a word that has unfortunately been repeated by almost all the different party sectors. That word is: game. It is, in fact, a literal translation from the French. Elections are not a game.

Please be careful, dear people—political leaders and citizens alike—and avoid using this expression that elections are only a game. Maybe the expression was a slip of the tongue, and, as far as I am concerned, I can only understand it as such. We are on the eve of a sacred endeavor, that is, entrusting a number of us to guide us to success and to attain our goals for the happiness of our children and our grandchildren. And here, I would like to say: O dear people, as far as I am concerned, Friday will be a day of celebration and should also be a day of celebration for you.

I would like you, dear people, to know that, like always—we, you and me, have always been on the same path and on the same wavelength and have always had the same heartbeat—you are all my sons and daughters, and you are all the same to me. Regardless of the outcome of the referendum I will, in my capacity as a monarch, be happy with it. And as a human being, I shall be honored to deal [ta'amul] with it.

Let us all go and vote—please remember that I am not allowed to take part in the elections. You go to the ballot boxes, and I shall be with you, in soul and spirit. Here is my last advice to you, dear people. I beg each one of you to read the following Koranic verse when you are about to cast your vote: Our Lord! Bestow on us mercy from Thyself and dispose of our affair for us in the right way.

Verily, God has spoken the truth. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Sudan

Foreign Minister on U.S. Ties, Iran, Libya

PM2106110793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jun 93 p 6

[Interview with Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih by Muhammad Sa'id Muhammad al-Hasan in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] Some observers describe him as excessively intransigent and sharp in his discussions and dealings with Western diplomats and say that he frequently has declined to receive ambassadors who insisted on meeting with him urgently.

I asked him if that attitude did not lack the required flexibility.

Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih, who inherited the post from his predecessor 'Ali Sahlul in March 1993, said: That description is incorrect, unless they consider my rejection of their so-called demarche [in English] or protest against the government for its alleged violation of human rights to be some kind of intransigence whereas it was actually a natural reaction to their attitude.

The EC ambassadors recently came to me to protest against what they called slavery in western Sudan and the sale of children to Libya. My reaction to these fabrications was indeed sharp and so was my denial of these charges. I said that Sudan had never known or practiced slavery because it is immoral and inhuman. I fully rejected their protest. As regards the position of the British ambassador in Khartoum, I have considered it to be hostile since his arrival. In a discussion with him he told me that his government would have reservations about the Khartoum government even if peace was established in the south, but he came to my house on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha and he denied that the British position was hostile. He said that his government wished to play a part in the peace process in the south and that it asked Colonel John Garang during his recent visit to Britain to be serious about the peace negotiations.

Joking, the ambassador told me that he thought I belonged to the [National] Islamic Front [NIF]. When I denied that he said: You are close to them. The truth is that I support the policies of the National Salvation government.

[Al-Hasan] Do you believe in calming the situation in Hala'ib on the occasion of the African summit conference scheduled for the end of June in Cairo?

[Abu-Salih] I do not believe in calming the situation in Hala'ib because Sudan insists on its right to the area and will never forfeit its territory. Without the withdrawal of the Egyptian forces from Hala'ib, relations will never return to normal. We have prepared complete files on Hala'ib in Arabic, English, and French to be submitted to the African organization and all the African delegations. During my latest meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, I urged nonconfrontation, suspension of the escalatory measures, and restoration of the October 1991 situation, but there was no response. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hasan] There have been several meetings with the U.S. ambassador in Khartoum. What is behind these meetings?

[Abu-Salih] There have been several discussions with him on bilateral relations and the U.S. position. I told him that we were not unaware of the aims of the world order and that if they decided to interfere in Sudan they would be met with resistance and a declaration of jihad, and also that it would not be easy to overthrow the government and that that would require massive sacrifices. I also exchanged messages with U.S. Secretary of State Christopher. There are points of agreement and disagreement. The idea of an official visit to the United States this June was raised.

(Abu-Salih also said that his ministry was aware of the U.S. ambassador's recent visit to the south with the aim of persuading the rebels to observe a cease-fire among themselves and that he was able to persuade the [rebel] factions to leave the Ayod-Kongor-Watir triangle so as to make it a demilitarized zone and also that he told the ambassador that Sudan would not accept violation of its sovereignty and rejects the safe havens idea.)

[Al-Hasan] King Hassan II of Morocco has been quoted as saying during his recent meeting with you that he knew that the Sudanese people wanted government by persuasion, whereas the Iranian people are ruled by violence, and that he saw no justification for Sudan to consolidate its ties with Iran because that would not be in Sudan's interest. He has also been quoted as saying that there should be ideological plurality in Sudan's political system provided it is not religious or sectarian. Did that occur in the conversation or in a message to Khartoum?

[Abu-Salih] That was in the context of a message and advice that I have conveyed to Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir.

[Al-Hasan] What about relations with Iran?

[Abu-Salih] Relations with Iran are normal bilateral relations. When I took over at the foreign ministry, the Iranian ambassador was the last to call on me. At the recent Islamic conference in Karachi, I wanted to meet with the Iranian foreign minister but was told that he had an appointment with another foreign minister, so I decided to forget about meeting with him.

As I said, relations with Iran are normal but others might force us to change these relations.

[Al-Hasan] Do you expect a foreign landing?

[Abu-Salih] I do not rule it out because humane grounds are used as a pretext for foreign interference. The scenario for that was that it would have taken place at the time of the Juba incidents in June 1992, when John Garang threw all his resources and equipment into a suicidal attempt to occupy Juba after receiving promises that his success in occupying Juba would be followed by a landing in Khartoum. The intervention scenario still stands and is reflected in the complete information siege aimed at undermining Sudan's achievements and policies, the economic blockade, the fact-finding commissions, and the dispatch of observers. We reject all that. That is why I have told the Western ambassadors that they should know that intervention would mean full resistance and a declaration of jihad, and that that would be a future consideration. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hasan] What is the state of relations with Libya?

[Abu-Salih] The charter of integration between the two countries was supposed to be completed in 1992 and the projects under the charter were supposed to begin to materialize, but that was suspended. Efforts are being made to reactivate it. Libya has stopped supplying Sudan with oil. Sudan now purchases it on the open seas ['ard al-bahr].

The claims that the government had permitted a Libyan plane carrying Libyans to cross its airspace are untrue because Sudan is committed to the UN resolutions on the air embargo against Libya. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Ben Ali Announces Nuclear Technology Center

LD1906195293 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Excerpt] The progress of the scientific research programs listed within the targets of the Eighth Plan was the center of attention of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali when he received Mongi Safra, secretary of state attached to the prime minister's office responsible for scientific research and technology, at Carthage Palace this morning. The president was also acquainted with the function of the research centers of the state secretariat and with the cooperation of and in coordination with the departments concerned, in terms of applied research in various fields, especially energy and natural resources such as water.

In this connection, the head of state decided to establish a national center for nuclear sciences and technology, which will study the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. On this occasion, the head of state reaffirmed his care for the Tunisian researchers and inventors, both inside or outside the country, and his encouragement for them and his support for the scientific research sector. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

UN Envoy Leaves Laayoune for Tindouf, Algiers

LD1906164893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, the UN secretary general's special representative in charge of the Western Sahara file, left Laayoune this morning after arriving there on Thursday within the framework of a visit to the

region. The UN official announced in a statement before his departure that he would go to Tindouf then to Algiers, where he is expected to hold talks with Algerian Foreign Minister Redha Malek.

The UN official indicated that following this visit he will meet with the UN secretary general in Geneva and brief him on the results of his tour in Rabat and Tindouf. This visit followed the visit carried out recently by the UN secretary general to the region.

President Warns of Consequences of Moroccan March

LD2206021693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] After a glimmer of hope wavered in the horizon for holding a referendum in the Western Sahara at the end of this year to put a stop to the fighting that has lasted more than 17 years between Morocco and the Polisario front, the Western Saharan president revealed that Morocco intends to organize a new green march in the direction of Western Sahara.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, a copy of which the APS received yesterday, the Saharan president spoke of the imminent arrival to the Western Sahara of a new Moroccan green march consisting of thousands of people. It is similar to the two marches organized in 1975 and 1991.

The Saharan official said that if this march is confirmed, it would create a new obstacle and strike a strong blow to the efforts exerted by the international group.

The text of the letter to the UN secretary general draws his attention to the dangerous consequences that would arise from the new Moroccan march in the direction of Western Sahara, which would tamper with the seriousness and the credibility of the UN efforts and would cast a doubt on all gains reached in the framework of implementing the settlement plan for the Western Sahara.

Kuwait

Amir Meets Iraqi Ayatollah, Discusses Regime

LD2106181493 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim met and conferred yesterday with Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Sabah. During the course of this meeting Ayatollah Hakim, head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, held discussions and exchanged views with the Kuwaiti amir on the situation in Iraq, the positions of the region's countries, and the jihad plan for changing the Iraqi regime.

U.S. Marines Stage 'National Anger-93' Exercise

LD1906194993 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1728 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Kuwait, 19 Jun (KUNA)—An exercise code-named National Anger-93 was staged today by U.S. Marines at the Al-'Idayri' firing range north of Kuwait. U.S. armored units and other military vehicles participated in the exercise. They fired on imaginary targets to ascertain firepower and precision. In a statement to KUNA, Operations Officer Captain (Andrew Kinasi) described the exercises being conducted by the U.S. and Kuwaiti forces as being of an excellent standard. He said today's exercises enabled troops to train on the equipment that arrived last week at the port of al-Shu'aybah. The equipment was transferred to the al-'Idayri' range area for training and will be returned to their original units as soon as possible. He reaffirmed that the local atmosphere in the State of Kuwait differs from that in the United States, but he pointed out that the American soldier has become used to it.

Saudi Arabia

Cabinet Reaffirms Support for Palestinians, Bosnians

LD2106193393 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 21 Jun (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers which was held at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah this afternoon. Following the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir said in a statement to SPA that the Council of Ministers continued to examine matters relating to the hajj in light of the final report to the Council of Ministers by His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, minister of the interior and chairman of the Higher Hajj Committee, in a bid to find the best solution to the ever increasing pressure brought about by locals who want to perform the hajj. [passage omitted]

The information minist]r added in his statement: Afterwards, the Council of Ministers reviewed the most important political and security developments in the Arab and international arenas. Within this framework the beloved King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz reiterated the kingdom's stand on those developments and reaffirmed the kingdom's continued efforts to support the process of a just and comprehensive peace in the region which would guarantee the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

Minister al-Sha'ir continued: As far as the tragedy of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina is concerned, the custodian of the two holy mosques affirmed that the kingdom has been following with great concern the development of the tragic situation still facing that helpless people. He pointed out the great efforts which have been and still are being exerted by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in order to save the lives of the Bosnian-Herzegovinan people who are facing increasingly wanton Serbian aggression day in and day out. The custodian of the two holy mosques affirmed the kingdom's determination to continue supplying humanitarian and material aid to the Muslim Bosnians. He asserted: "As we have constantly repeated, we cannot see a solution to the tragedy of Bosnia-Herzegovina given the Serbs' determination to annihilate the people, except through enabling the Bosnian Muslim people to defend their legitimate right in such a manner that would deter the Serbs from continuing their crimes against a defenseless people."

The interior minister went on to say: Concerning the development of the situation in Somalia, the custodian of the two holy mosques reiterated the kingdom's support for the international measures which might guarantee an end to the fighting and for the Somali people a stable life and a permanent peace that would bring them stability and security. [passage omitted]

Editorial Lambasts Libya's Colonel al-Qadhdhafi

LD1806130393 Riyadh SPA in English 1231 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] Riyadh, June 18, SPA—Saudi newspapers commented editorially today on a number of local, Arab and international issues. The Jeddah-based 'UKAZ, commenting on the economic procession of the kingdom, said three important economic decisions have been taken by the kingdom in the past few days and received wide coverage and attention locally and abroad. The paper said the first of the three decisions has been the cancellation of Samarec Company and its merger in Saudi Aramco. The paper said the decision was very important for oil industry in the kingdom since it would boost the energies and capabilities of the giant Aramco which was controlling the oil industry.

The second decision has been the kingdom joining of GATT as a working member for lifting custom barriers among world countries and facilitating trade among them, the paper said. The third decision has been the exempting the capital expansion of the industrial

projects from the income and companies tax, the paper added. Such important decisions were embodying the strong status of the Saudi economy and the kingdom's firm economic position among the world countries, 'UKAZ said.

Another Jeddah-based newspaper AL-MADINAH under an editorial entitled "The Colonel and the Short Ropes of Lies" said one of the most pitiful phenomena in our Arab and Islamic world was the presence of a handful of people who have peculiar immunity against good deeds and dark souls that all world light could not enlight. Such people, the paper said, were stripped to an old circle of ill tactics and maneuvers. Such people were practicing naive forms of deceit which can not be accepted to any sane person.

Among this category of people, stands Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of Libya who had mobilized all energies and resources of sisterly Libya to sow the seeds of discord and dissension among the Arabs and Muslims, the paper added. The paper said the colonel of Libya has resorted to all means to thwart any attempt to heal Arab and Muslim rifts and has never been ashamed of lying to undermine sincere efforts to mend Arab and Muslim fences.

Commenting on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Jeddah-based AL-BILAD said the European Community has betrayed the cause of Bosnian Muslims when it turned deaf and mute to the innocent calls of Muslims being persecuted by Serb aggressors. The paper said the European Community has revealed its impotence when it stood helplessly infront of the mass killing and torture of Bosnian people. AL-BILAD expressed its dismay over the double standard policy of the European Community on the issue of human rights as the basic human rights of the Bosnian people had been violated and trampled by the Serbs. The paper said it seems that European Community was not aware of the perilous situation in the Balkans and its grave consequences to the future of the European continent as a whole. The paper said the European Community should put off the fire of ethnic strife in the Balkans or else the fires would extend to engulf the entire continent.

Yemen

Party Leaders Agree To Set Up Joint Committees

JN2206094993 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] A cordial meeting between the leaderships of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] was held this evening. On the YSP side, the meeting was attended by brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council and YSP Central Committee secretary general, and members of the YSP Political Bureau and Central Committee. On the YRG side, the meeting was attended by Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives and head of the YRG Higher Committee, the YRG secretary general, and a number of YRG Higher Committee members.

The conferees discussed a number of national topics, including the government coalition. All those attending stressed the need to do everything possible to render the coalition successful and capable of overcoming the various problems facing the Yemeni people in order to entrench democratization and rally all efforts to build the one Yemen.

The conferees discussed relations between the two groups. They stressed the need to bolster these relations and help them move forward. They also stressed the need to overcome past ideological and cultural differences and to effectively promote the coalition and safeguard its noble objectives.

The conferees agreed to set up joint committees for dialogue and consultations on all political and ideological issues.

Tariq 'Aziz Calls Meeting With UN Chief 'Positive'

JN2106193093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, met with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali at the United Nations' Geneva Headquarters today. The talks dealt with all aspects of the relationship between Iraq and the United Nations. 'Aziz and Ghali also agreed to continue Iraqi-UN meetings at various levels.

In a statement after the talks, the deputy prime minister described the meeting as positive and constructive.

The meeting was attended by Barzan al-Tikriti, Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations' Geneva Headquarters, and Nizar Hamdun, Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations in New York.

Tariq 'Aziz had earlier in the day met with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid in Geneva. They discussed the most recent Arab developments.

Ba'th Command Member Confers With DFLP Delegation

JN2106103293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jun (INA)—'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has met with a delegation of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] led by Saji Salamah, DFLP Political Bureau member.

At the meeting, the Iraq Command member reiterated the support of the party and the 17-30 July Revolution, led by President Saddam Husayn, for the intifadah of the Palestinian Arab people, and their eagerness to place PLO unity on the path toward the realization of all the historical objectives of the Palestinian people on their land and homeland.

'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur added that Iraq, which was involved in the great historic duel of the immortal Mother of Battles, faced the unjust siege, and reconstructed what the aggressors had destroyed, offers an incentive for pan-Arabism and humanity to struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

Saji Salamah said the Palestinian Arab people and the heroic intifadah's youths are proud of leader President Saddam Husayn, who offers a pan-Arab model for confronting imperialist-Zionist plotting and brought militant momentum to the Palestinian Arab people's confrontation of the Zionist occupation.

He said the all-out reconstruction campaign in Iraq emphasizes the Arab nation's ability to continue the march of progress.

At the meeting, which was attended by director of the liberation movement's Bureau of the Revolution Command Council, talks dealt with current Arab and international developments, threats to the crucial causes of the Arab nation, and the role of Arab forces and parties in energizing the pan-Arab struggle.

Jordanian Ba'th Party Signs Joint Working Program

JN2006151793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1348 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jun (INA)—The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party have signed a working program to stir up the energies of the pan-Arab masses and break the blockade imposed on Iraq.

The program stresses the need to use every means to confront the American onslaught, Zionist aggression, racial discrimination, and colonialism plundering of the wealth of nations and developing countries. It also urges struggle to secure respect for national options and to spread security and stability.

The working program, valid for two years, recommends that the AL-THAWRAH newspaper in Baghdad and the Jordanian Al-BA'TH newspaper in Amman exchange publications and periodicals; cooperate in various political, media, and professional areas; coordinate efforts and joint action in Arab and international symposiums and conferences; and support the Arab Popular Forces Conference by contributing to its activities and implementing its resolutions. This is the best formula for a large-scale popular Arab coalition and one that will serve all the fateful Arab causes.

The working program was signed by Taysir al-Himsi, secretary general of the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; and 'Abd-al- Razzaq al-Hashimi, director of the Special Relations Bureau of the Ba'th Party Iraq Command.

RCC Official Urges Cadres To Foil 'Wicked Plans'

JN2006162293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 20 Jun (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, has urged the advanced cadres of the Ba'th Party organizations in Mosul and Ninawa to exert special, objective efforts; shoulder their militant and national responsibilities; strengthen Iraq's national unity; and foil imperialist and Zionist circles' wicked plans to harm Iraq and its dignity and sovereignty.

During his meeting with members of these organizations, in the presence of 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of the Ba'th Party Iraq Command and official in charge of the Ba'th Party organizations in

Ninawa, Irbil, and Dahuk Governorates, Ramadan said that our steadfast, mujahid people have made great efforts to rebuild, in record time and with Iraqi capability, what was destroyed by the aggressors. [passage omitted]

Regime Said Angered by Remarks by Yemen's Basindwah

NC1806150693 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] The regime of tyrant Saddam Husayn was angered by remarks made by Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Qasim Basindwah on his country's ties with Arab Gulf countries. The regime is holding exchanges with Yemeni officials to assess bilateral relations, Yemeni political sources told the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB today. Basindwah said recently that his country is not on the side of Saddam Husayn's regime and has never been hostile to Kuwait.

The same sources see the election of a Yemeni as deputy chairman of the Asian group at the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights as a sign of Yemen's popularity in this group, which includes Gulf countries.

Justice Minister, Basindwah Review Ties

JN1906165793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Vienna, 19 Jun (INA)—Justice Minister Shabib al-Maliki, leading the Iraqi delegation to the UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, has met with Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah.

They discussed the conference's agenda and stressed the importance of Arab solidarity and unified positions at the conference to serve the interests of the Arab nation and Third World countries. They also reviewed ways to boost fraternal bilateral ties.

The justice minister emphasized the importance of mobilizing Arab efforts to lift the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq. [passage omitted]

Saudi Authorities Assist in Repatriating Iraqi Refugees

PM1606112893 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Jun 93 p 2

[Hasin al-Bunyan report: "With Saudi Authorities' And Refugees Commission's Help, 350 Iraqi Refugees in Rafha' Return to Their Country Voluntarily"]

[Excerpt] Riyadh—Yesterday and the day before 350 Iraqi refugees from the Rafha' camp for Iraqi refugees in northeast Saudi Arabia returned to Iraq voluntarily. It is the largest number of refugees to return to Iraq.

'Abd-al-Mawla al-Sulh, head of the mission of the UN High Commission for Refugee Affairs, emphasized from his office in Riyadh that the Iraqi returnees had voluntarily expressed their wish to return to their country after receiving assurances from their relatives, who had voluntarily returned [to Iraq], that Iraq authorities continue to enforce the general and comprehensive amnesty granted to refugees—which encouraged them to return.

He said that the Commission's working team supervised the return operation as far as the Saudi-Iraqi border, where the returnees' relatives were awaiting them on the other side. He also said that the competent Saudi authorities provided services and facilities for these refugees, as they provided some 20 buses and more than 30 trucks to transport their personal belongings.

Al-Sulh said that so far 1,831 Iraqi refugees have returned to their country since the Commission began supervising their voluntary return as of 20 May 1992 and until the day before yesterday. [passage omitted]

Paper Deplores 'Blatant' U.S. Resolve To 'Punish'

JN2106110893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 21 Jun (INA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper describes the White House's determination to "implement the sanctions imposed on Iraq" without even bothering to link these sanctions to how much of the Security Council resolutions Iraq has implemented as blatant resolve to punish Iraq.

In an article today, the paper says this determination clearly shows the United States wants punishment for Iraq, not Iraq's implementation of the UN resolutions, as they claim night and day.

The paper says this declared, blatant resolve to punish Iraq reveals a very important fact, namely, that all Ekeus's claims and reports, as well as the Security Council's statements on Iraq's position toward the UN resolutions, mean nothing at all. They are merely pretexts and excuses used to justify the aggressive, conspiratorial U.S.-Western position against Iraq and to maintain the unjust economic blockade that has been in place for three years. [passage omitted]

The paper says: We are not unaware of the meaning of the U.S. resolve to implement the sanctions imposed on Iraq. We know the aggression against our people and country is continuing. We know they are still targeting Iraq and conspiring against its independence, policies, and national unity. We know this plotting against Iraq and the targeting of Iraq have nothing to do with what Iraq has or has not implemented of the Security Council resolutions. They have nothing to do with the reports of Ekeus and his Special Commission. They express only a premeditated aggressive political stance toward Iraq.

At any rate, their statements and resolutions are too weak to undermine the resolve of our great people or

their will and determination to stick to their approach and symbol leader Saddam Husayn. The enemies of Iraq will certainly fail to achieve any of their aims and plots. They should know that the sons of our struggling people can, through with creative minds and productive hands, weaken and fragment the blockade. This is what they are doing now.

Minister Says Ration System Costs $90 Million Monthly

JN1806171993 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 13 Jun 93 p 4

[By Sa'ib 'Abd-al-Muhsin]

[Text] Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has declared that the ration system costs the ministry $90 million per month.

In a statement to AL-THAWRAH, the minister said this sum covers the purchase of 310,000 tonnes of foodstuffs and their transportation in 10,000 trucks.

Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih indicated that through its specialized companies, the ministry contributes to providing food supplies and other imported and local products. The availability of good quantities of these products ensures their smooth flow into the market via a network of distributors in governorates, districts, subdistricts, and remote villages.

To implement leader President Saddam Husayn's instructions, food rations distributed to Iraqi families in accordance with the ration system have been increased by 25-125 percent. The flour ration has been increased from 5 to 9 kg, the rice ration from 1 to 2.75 kg, the sugar ration from 750 grams to 1.5 kg, the fat ration from 250 grams to 500 grams, and the tea ration from 50 grams to 75 grams. The milk powder ration has been increased from three to four cans. The soap ration has been increased by 25 percent.

Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has affirmed that the ration system and guaranteeing its continuation is the best weapon with which to face our enemies. Therefore, he added, the leadership of the party and the revolution is eager to maintain this system and to provide citizens with their shares, as scheduled.

To support the farming campaign, the minister declared that specialized agricultural departments and cooperative peasants societies have distributed 165,000 tonnes of wheat and barley seeds to farmers for planting.

Release of Assets To Fund Religious Teaching, Sought

JN1606173593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jun (INA)—Iraq has asked the General Secretariat of the Arab League as well as the General Secretariat of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to intercede with the governments of 30 Arab and foreign countries holding frozen Iraqi assets to release $10 million of these assets so they may be earmarked for printing copies of the Holy Koran to distribute them among students of the elementary, intermediate, and preparatory classes. This would be part of an effort to implement a Holy Koran teaching program that will go into effect as of the beginning of the next school year in September 1993.

In two letters sent to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and ICO Secretary General Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said the Iraqi Government has allocated 105 million Iraqi dinars for this educational program. However, he noted, this important educational program requires $10 million to secure requirements not available inside Iraq. These requirements concern the printing of a sufficient number of copies of various sections of the Holy Koran, the minister maintained.

In his two letters, the minister pointed out that the embargo imposed on Iraq for almost three years has denied Iraq any foreign currency revenue. It has also denied the Iraqi people access to all requirements of civil life, including educational requirements, such as paper.

Enclosed with the two letters were lists naming 30 countries whose banks are holding frozen Iraqi assets. In his letters, the minister indicated the educational program the Iraqi Government has decided to enact implements directives issued in this regard by leader President Saddam Husayn. The directives stipulated, the minister maintained, that a faith-based national program be put into effect to teach the Holy Koran at elementary, intermediate, and preparatory classes in accordance with a course aimed at ensuring that students understand and comprehend the Holy Koran. According to these directives, such teaching of the Holy Koran, the minister said, must also nurture educational awareness.

Appeal Made for Arab, Islamic Aid

JN2106103693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 21 Jun (INA)—Education Minister Hikmat 'Abdallah al-Bazzaz has appealed to ministers of education in fraternal Arab states and friendly Islamic nations to exert efforts with their governments to free Iraqi assets in order to carry out the ministry's national religious program to teach the holy Koran to all classes.

In letters addressed today to his counterparts in Arab and Islamic states, the education minister said Iraq's educational program is in line with its constant policy to deepen the teachings of Islam, based on its belief that this is absolutely necessary to protect the generations from going astray, as the enemies want them to do. [passage omitted]

Saddam Orders Endorsement of Koran Teaching Plan

JN2106153793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered the endorsement of a plan to teach the Holy Koran. He also ordered the allocation of 105,461,542 dinars for the implementation of the plan at elementary, intermediate, and preparatory schools.

The order issued by the leader president stated that the services of retired instructors and teachers must be utilized in the national faith-based drive for teaching the Holy Koran at elementary, intermediate, and preparatory schools. The order added that various media organizations must be used to promote this drive. The order also said committees must be formed in all governorates to receive applications for Koran teaching jobs from retired instructors and teachers, to assess these applications objectively, and to select those known for their seriousness, honesty, integrity, and straightforwardness in both thinking and conduct for participation in this drive.

The order also stipulates that the selection of currently serving instructors and teachers must be based on relevant experience. Such teachers must also be known for their intellectual and behavioral maturity. Instructors and teachers, the order maintained, must be trained and prepared for this endeavor through the use of proper teaching methods. This should be achieved, the order said, by holding specialized courses and by transmitting relevant training programs over television. The order concluded by saying that at least one hour of the television's main channel must be devoted to the transmission of such training programs.

RCC's Ibrahim Attends Special Cabinet Session

JN2006115193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman, today attended a special Cabinet session to discuss formulas for popular and party mobilization and the development plans for various subdistricts.

The RCC vice chairman said: Our people's great march and their splendid steadfastness in the glorious al-Qadisiyah and the great duel in the eternal Mother of Battles have polished the Iraqi individual's personality. That individual is now aware of the tricks of the colonialists and their agents, and knows and understands the persistent national action.

His excellency added: What we are required to do is to maintain this popular momentum and the militant administrative action because they constitute a basic part of the counterattack against the U.S.- Zionist aggression, which targeted Iraq's renaissance and the leadership of its mujahid leader, Saddam Husayn.

Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi welcomed the RCC vice chairman in the session, which was devoted to discussing the popular and party mobilization efforts and development plans for subdistricts. The prime minister also reviewed the proposals made in that regard.

The Cabinet made a number of recommendations and decisions during the session.

Barzani Returns to Kurdistan, Cites 'Big Promises'

JN2106185893 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Brother struggler Mas'ud Barzani [leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party] arrived in Kurdistan at 1530 today at the end of his tour of the United States, France, Britain, Austria, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey. [passage omitted]

In an arrival statement, his excellency said: There are big promises to support our cause on the political, morale, and economic levels. We hope they will fulfill these pledges.

SAIRI's al-Hakim on Resistance's Growth, Future

NC2106201593 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 15 Jun 93 p 10

[Interview with Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, SAIRI, by AL-SAFIR correspondent 'Ali Jamalu in Damascus—date not given]

[Text] [Jamalu] What is the purpose of your visit to Damascus?

[Al-Hakim] Syria is our second homeland. We visit Syria because we have good emotional and political links with it. In addition, there are important issues, primarily, the situation the Iraqi people are experiencing. It is not ordinary, because military developments are taking place in southern Iraq resulting from continuing major military operations and the failure of the Iraqi regime to end the resistance there. The Iraqi people are passing through a difficult economic situation. The invalidation of the 25-dinar note is one sign of the economic problem. The Iraqi regime replaced the numbers of cars in the areas outside its control to cause trouble in these areas. There is also the issue of Iraq's unity, which the Iraqi regime is trying to exploit to create fears, particularly among Arabs, in view of Iraq's special status in the region and because the Iraqi people are dear to Arabs and Muslims. By creating fears about Iraq's unity, the Iraqi regime seeks to mobilize the region against the Iraqi opposition. We stress that fears about the partition of Iraq are unjustified, because no one in Iraq—neither the people nor the opposition—contemplates partitioning the country. As far as I know, no foreign circles have any intention of partitioning Iraq.

My visit to Syria aims, among other things, to stress Iraq's unity of territory and political entity. We have already discussed this issue with our Kurdish brothers, who had some fears because of their commitment to federalism. They stressed their commitment to Iraq's unity and preparedness to emphasize unity in their political approach. We agreed to postpone discussing all the issues relating to federalism and to leave this issue for the Iraqi people to decide.

One of the basic issues that we sought to emphasize on this visit was the need for struggle, which we raised during our previous visit. We believe the right approach is to rely on organizing the Iraqi people militarily in coordination with the Iraqi Army so as to prevent confrontation between the Army and opposition and to be able to confront the regime. At our meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad the day before yesterday, we discussed several issues relating to the Islamic world in general and the Arab world in particular along with the Iraqi issue. Our ideas concurred. We will continue our discussions.

[Jamalu] Speaking about your meetings with your brother Kurds, on what grounds do you meet—on Salah-al-Din [opposition conference] resolutions or on the recognition of the unity, independence, and sovereignty of the Iraqi territories?

[Al-Hakim] As far as this issue is concerned, you know I have engaged in no political entity—not the joint action committee or Salah al-Din conference or any other. I have always tried to serve every part of the Iraqi opposition and I always support any movement in that direction.

We share a set of basic principles with brother Kurds. We agree with them that the Kurds constitute a section of the Iraqi people and that they are accordingly involved in the existence and movement of the Iraqi people. We agree with them in their futuristic vision. We believe the Iraqi people should develop the ruling system, that the people must directly elect the ruler, and that the regime should believe in political pluralism and public freedom and respect the religion of the majority and the Iraqi minorities.

We agree with them on the need to safeguard Iraq's national unity. They affirm that they are part of Iraq, that unity is necessary for them, and that they cannot live apart from the Iraqi people.

As for the Salah al-Din conference, I believe the issue is more tactical than strategic.

[Jamalu] Let us go back to the domestic situation in Iraq; what do you know about events there?

[Al-Hakim] The resistance is growing. The best evidence of this can be found in the regime's reaction.

The regime has failed in all its strategic plans to confront the resistance; the plan to dry up the marshlands, which cost the regime dearly, has failed to curb the growth of the resistance.

The regime has failed in its attempts to normalize relations with some regional states, due to the political opposition movement. This has had a massive domestic impact.

[Jamalu] In view of what you have said, how do you perceive the future?

[Al-Hakim] When it comes to the future, I am always being accused by the opposition of being optimistic despite my grave suffering.

I believe God is with us defending our rightful cause and all the moral and humane values. The future will be bright and the regime will fall.

[Jamalu] There has been talk about developing an opposition faction loyal to Riyadh. Let us hear your candid views on this; how do you view Riyadh's role?

[Al-Hakim] We are eager to establish positive relations with Saudi Arabia and all regional states. We believe in the need for coordination and positive relations. Iraq has a long border with Saudi Arabia.

It is unacceptable to us to assume that each state must have a loyal faction within the opposition that supports it against other states. This point was one of the major points we tried to overcome during our visits to the region.

[Jamalu] How do you view the issue of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border in light of the UN Security Council resolution?

[Al-Hakim] The Iraqi-Kuwaiti border issue was fabricated by the Iraqi regime. Border disputes worldwide are ordinary issues that do not generate such problems. The Iraqi regime wanted to justify its aggression. We must return to the normal approach to handle the problem on the basis of mutual trust and goodneighborliness between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti peoples. The approach should also be based on the recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty, the UN resolutions, international laws, bilateral agreements, and established norms.

Islamic Revolution Mujahidin Shoot Down Helicopter

JN1606120493 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Sources of the Islamic revolution mujahidin have recently stressed that challenge and steadfastness operations are escalating against [word indistinct] Saddamist (?hypocrisy). The sources noted that during the past few days the ground defenses of the zealous mujahidin of the Islamic revolution were able to shoot down one of the tyrant regime's helicopters in areas adjacent to the

southern marshlands. The helicopter was seen falling on the headquarters of the 47th Brigade.

The statements of our zealous mujahidin on the combat and revolution operations against the [word indistinct] 'Aflaqite regime earlier said that one of the helicopters of the regime of the enemy of humanity, Saddam, was shot down. The statements noted that the tyrant desperately tried to exploit the UN decisions, allowing him to use agriculture helicopters, by sending his warplanes to attack citizens in the marshlands. Our mujahidin were able to shoot down this plane in the quagmires of [place-name indistinct] in the heroic al-Basrah Governorate.

Letters to UN Protest Allied Airspace Violations

Missions Flown 12, 13 Jun

JN2006120993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Iraq has lodged a protest with the United Nations over the continued violations of Iraqi airspace by the U.S., British, and French planes for the purpose of surveillance, provocation, and dropping flares. In a letter addressed to UN Secretary General Dr. Burtrus-Ghali, Iraq noted that on 11 June these planes carried out 12 hostile sorties and dropped four flares on the northern area. The letter adds that on the same day these planes carried out 51 hostile sorties over the southern part of Iraq.

An American C-10R1 reconnaissance plane violated Iraqi airspace north of al-Najaf.

These planes also violated Iraqi airspace on 12 and 13 June and carried out 12 hostile sorties over the northern part and 161 sorties over the south.

Iraq asked the UN secretary general to distribute this letter among the UN members as a UN Security Council document.

Flares Dropped 12, 13 Jun

JN2106105793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] New York, 21 Jun (INA)—Iraq has again protested to the United Nations against U.S., British, and French aircraft violations of Iraqi airspace and the dropping of flares on several agricultural areas.

In a memorandum to the UN secretary general yesterday, the Iraqi UN envoy said these aircraft carried out several hostile sorties over Irbil, Ninawa, Dhi Qar, and al-Iskandariyah during the 12-13 June period, dropping flares on and damaging farms in these areas.

Iraq's UN envoy said the Government of Iraq strongly protests against these hostile actions and calls on the secretary general to take the measures dictated by the UN Charter to halt these actions and prevent their recurrence.

Airspace Violations Protested to Arab League

Air Sorties Conducted 13, 14 Jun

JN1706084693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jun (INA)—Iraq has protested to the Arab League General Secretariat against the facilities provided to U.S., British, and French aircraft which violate the Iraqi airspace after taking off from air bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, thus posing a serious threat to Iraq's security and sovereignty.

In a letter sent yesterday to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent League representative said these aircraft continued to violate the Iraqi airspace, carrying out 66 hostile air sorties on 13 and 14 June. He enclosed a list detailing these violations and requested the distribution of this letter among the League's member states, so they can be acquainted with these regrettable facts.

Violations Continue 15, 16 Jun

JN2006115693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Iraq has protested to the Arab League the continued facilities provided by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for the U.S., British, and French aircraft to violate the Iraqi airspace, thus posing a serious threat to the security and sovereignty of Iraq.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent representative to the League said that taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, these aircraft continued their violation of the Iraqi airspace on Tuesday and Wednesday, 15 and 16 June, and carried out 113 sorties.

The Iraqi representative enclosed with his letter a list detailing these violations. He requested that the letter be distributed among the Arab member states.

Sorties Flown 17, 18 Jun

JN2106104593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jun (INA)—Iraq has informed the secretary general of the Arab League that the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait continue to provide facilities for U.S., British, and French aircraft to violate Iraqi airspace and threaten its security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

In a letter to the Arab League Secretary General, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent representative to the league said these aircraft violated Iraqi airspace and carried out 107 sorties on 17 and 18 June, taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. A list detailing the violations, the times they were carried out, and the aircraft type and number was attached to the message.

Iraq's permanent representative asked for the letter to be distributed among the Arab member states.

Beilin Expects U.S. To Increase Pressure at Talks

TA2206052493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 22 Jun 93

[Excerpt] On the eve of the resumption of the peace talks, the deputy foreign minister expects the United States to pressure Israel and the Arabs through bridging proposals. Beilin says there will be no discussion of withdrawal as long as Syria fails to explain its concept of peace. Our correspondent in the north Yo'av Aviv reports:

[Begin recording] [Aviv] The new U.S. appointments are no coincidence, and neither is their timing. This observation was made by Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin on the eve of the resumption of the peace talks. The deputy foreign minister made these remarks in Metulla on the occasion of the Zionist General Council convention. In his opinion, the U.S. involvement will grow.

[Beilin] We expect the process to gather momentum in this stage of greater U.S. involvement. We do not know precisely what shape their involvement will take, as the next two weeks will be the first of this nature. I can assume their new role will be reflected in bridging proposals and in more interesting, more profound, more penetrating involvement, which will attempt to respond to the genuine desires and vital interests of the two parties and to bridge their positions.

[Aviv] There will be no discussion of the Golan Heights as long as the Syrians fail to clarify their intentions, Yosi Beilin said. For the time being at least, he does not think the evacuation of settlements is on the agenda. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 22 June adds that "an Israeli source in Washington warns that the talks with Syria might be in jeopardy if there is no progress in the present round. The source said that Damascus has not made any concessions since the negotiations began in Madrid, while Israel agreed to a withdrawal from the Golan Heights."]

Rabin Discusses Talks, Closure at Meretz Meeting

TA2106171493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] The prime minister says that the coming two weeks of negotiations with the Palestinians will be particularly sensitive. In a meeting with the Meretz faction today, he noted that the closure of the territories is not a bargaining chip but rather a security necessity.

Meretz faction chairman Ran Kohen demanded that the term closure be replaced by the term separation. Mr. Rabin refused, saying that separation is politically significant, while closure is an internationally recognized legal term.

[A related report by Hayim Hecht on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 21 June cites Prime Minister Rabin as saying that "this is the first time an Israeli Government has committed itself to withdrawal on the Golan, and that permits us to conduct serious negotiations with the Syrians."]

SHAS' Der'i Announces Plans To Quit Government

TA2106191393 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Arye Der'i said this evening that he is determined to quit the government at once, forego a hearing, and ask the Knesset to remove his parliamentary immunity. Minister Der'i demands that all the material gathered in the investigation against him be presented to the Knesset and that salami tactics cease in dealing with his case. Meanwhile, it has been learned that Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef is opposed to Der'i's quitting the government. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that Der'i conferred today with the prime minister to update him about his and SHAS' [Torah Observing Sephardim] moves. [passage omitted]

Prominent members of the Labor Knesset faction believe that the indictment against Der'i represents a crisis, which will yet grow worse. Our Knesset correspondent was told that the government is now facing a new situation which did not exist before. Minister Shulamit Aloni told our correspondent: I think Minister Arye Der'i should not have been part of the government and should resign the moment charges are pressed against him. The exact date should be decided by him and the prime minister, she said.

Moshe Qatzav, chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, said this affair weakens the government and undermines its stability. [passage omitted]

SHAS is split over whether to bolt the coalition in view of the indictment. Deputy Minister Arye Gamli'el has called on his faction to quit the government the moment the charges are submitted to court. He claims that these charges stem from ethnic motives and are directed against the entire SHAS party and its 130,000 voters. [passage omitted]

Behind the scenes, there are whispers about what the party will look like if the court convicts Der'i, and there is already talk about Refa'el Pinhasi, Moshe Maya, or Gamli'el as ministers in the government; about one or perhaps even two ministers. Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, the party's spiritual leader, told his associates this evening: Quitting the government is not at all on the agenda at present; Arye Der'i will emerge of the investigation as clean as the driven snow. The rabbi's feeling is shared by SHAS voters.

Defense Sources Say Closure Slowly Disintegrating

TA2206104593 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Jun 93 p 11

[Report by Roni Shaqed and Hayim Shibi]

[Excerpt] Over the past several days, the term "closure" has, in fact, been gradually disappearing: The recent relaxations and the increase in the number of people traveling to Israel from the territories have eroded the concept of a closure.

Sources in the defense establishment believe that the closure is slowly disintegrating, adding that we can now speak of being on our way back to the situation prior to April 1993.

So far, 45,000 work permits have been issued to residents of the territories. An additional 2,000 permits were given to Israeli construction contractors yesterday. The number of people employed in the territories last week reached 20,000, and, as of yesterday, people over the age of 50 are allowed to enter Israel without requiring any permits.

In addition, there have been more relaxations "for humanitarian reasons"; inspections at the checkpoints have been made easier, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has been removing roadblocks on roads leading from the West Bank to Israel occasionally, according to its needs. [passage omitted]

Beilin Calls on Cyprus To Open Embassy

TA2206110493 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Jun 93 p 2

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Excerpts] Dr. Yosi Beilin, deputy foreign minister, called on the Cypriot Government yesterday to open an embassy in Israel.

Yesterday Beilin met with a delegation of the Greek lobby in the United States and with members of the Jewish American committee. The two delegations will meet with the Cypriot prime minister today. Beilin took the opportunity to relay a message to the prime minister calling on him to open an embassy in Israel. [passage omitted]

The visitors, who arrived here from Greece, relayed a message from the Greek Government asking that the two countries coordinate stands regarding the former Yugoslav district of Macedonia.

King Continues Official Visit, Speaks to Press

Receives IMF Managing Director

JN2006104493 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0925 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Washington, 20 Jun (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn met with IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus at his place of residence in Washington yesterday.

During the meeting, his majesty reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to cooperate with the international community in order to achieve further comprehensive development. He also stressed Jordan's awareness of the social dimension which is considered the solid basis for comprehensive development plans.

The IMF managing director expressed to his majesty the IMF's appreciation and admiration of Jordan's efforts in the field of economic reform and its positive relationship with international organizations. He also expressed the IMF's admiration of Jordan's success in reaching the stage of self-reliance within the framework of continued comprehensive development.

The IMF managing director said that the IMF administration is impressed with Jordan's accomplishments and that it wants to offer Jordan every possible assistance to achieve its plans.

Comments on Negotiations

JN2206053793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 22 Jun 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that he is optimistic and resolved to do his utmost to achieve a breakthrough in the Middle East peace negotiations. His majesty told a group of reporters in Washington last night that for the peace process to move forward, Israel should define more clearly its objectives of the negotiations with the Palestinians. His majesty said that specifying what can be close to the final outcome will be very useful for the negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

His Majesty King Husayn said that Jordan will not sign an agreement with Israel as long as the negotiations with the Palestinians remain deadlocked.

His majesty praised the moral and physical courage of the Palestinian negotiators, especially those coming from the occupied territories. He noted that the time has come for people to see tangible results from the negotiations, which provide the last opportunity to achieve peace in the Middle East.

His majesty hoped that the United States would play a greater role in this process. He noted that President Clinton's administration has showed great interest in the negotiations.

His majesty said that he is satisfied with the discussions he held with U.S. President Bill Clinton last Friday and with the current status of relations between Amman and Washington.

Attacks Iraqi Leaders

JN2206062593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0510 GMT 22 Jun 93

[Hisham Milhim dispatch from Washington]

[Text] Jordan's King Husayn Bin-Talal has voiced satisfaction with his talks with President Bill Clinton. He described the return of bilateral relations to their pre-Gulf war level as the beginning of spring. At a meeting with news correspondents, King Husayn welcomed the U.S. President's resolve to personally contribute to the peace process between the Arabs and Israel. The Jordanian monarch emphasized, however, that the time

Al-Hariri Comments on Kuwait Visit, Tax Policy

NC2106145093 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] On the eve of his visit to Kuwait Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri spoke to Kuwaiti reporters, saying that the visit will focus on bilateral ties and the general regional and international situation.

Explaining that the Kuwaiti Development Fund has extended aid and loans to Lebanese water and electricity projects, al-Hariri declared: We must maintain and develop these relations. We will focus on the basic issues of refugees and housing. The United States and the European and Arab countries are backing Lebanon.

He said he will leave for the United Nations in September to chair the Lebanese delegation at the UN General Assembly meeting.

Al-Hariri asserted that Lebanon does not live on aid alone, pointing out that this country has dignity, sovereignty, and independence. He remarked: If the promised aid comes, we will be grateful. If it does not, then the Lebanese people will have to rebuild their country on their own.

He emphasized the country's economic revival plan and said the Lebanese people want their country to be a center of economy, trade, culture, and tourism and that the government is trying to fulfill this ambition.

He stressed that the government is staying and that there will no reshuffle unless the Chamber of Deputies withdraws its confidence from it. He remarked: When that happens, we will abide by the rules of democracy.

Al-Hariri described the recent government reshuffle [involving the electricity portfolio] as constitutional. He explained that if political circumstances had permitted, the recent appointments to senior government jobs could have been handled in a better way.

The prime minister said: The public must not feel frustrated. I cannot accept action that produces frustration because it will feed grudges and provoke troubles we are better off without.

He announced that the government's tax proposals will lower the taxes paid by employees and will also cut company taxes to encourage them to pay higher wages and reinvest capital. He explained that the results of current policies have not yet become apparent.

Concerning the Arab-Israeli talks, al-Hariri said that the ball is in the Israeli court and that it is clear to the whole world that the Arab position on this issue is sound and unambiguous.

Leaves for Kuwait

NC2206084493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 22 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left Beirut for Kuwait at about 0845 today. He leads a delegation comprising Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul, Information Minister Michel Samahah, and State Minister for Refugee Affairs Walid Junblatt. Samahah said the visit is part of Lebanon's Arab contacts.

Al-Hirawi Warns of Need for Just, Fair Peace

LD2106101993 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0850 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 21 Jun (KUNA)—In an interview published here today, Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi warned that unless a just and fair settlement is reached in the Middle East, the region will be invaded by extremists, and then nothing will remain the same.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti AL-QABAS, al-Hirawi said he conveyed this warning to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher when he visited Beirut some months ago. "I told him the Americans should realize this."

The Lebanese president expressed astonishment that the United States, which has the world in its hands—for the time being at least—is not giving the UN an effective role to play in settling the Middle East crisis. He pointed out that Israel toys with UN resolutions, interprets them the way it likes, and deals with them according to its own strategic requirements. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Lebanese resistance against Israel, the Lebanese president said that to prevent the resistance from fighting the occupation would be unacceptable from the Lebanese or even the international point of view. There are many capitals that would blame us for being accommodating and submissive to the occupation. Mr. al-Hirawi pledged, however, that if agreement is reached on a timetable for the Israeli withdrawal over a period of months, the Lebanese Army would prevent the unofficial use of weapons in the south and western al-Biqa'.

The Lebanese president disapproved of the attempts by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to drag the Lebanese Army into the camps. He said: "This man has offended Lebanon and me a great deal." He said the Lebanese are unanimous in rejecting the principle that the Palestinians should settle in Lebanon. He pointed out that when a settlement provides a form of self-rule [for the Palestinians]—a matter that cannot be separated from the general Palestinian file—the Lebanese authorities will not renew the residence permits of the Palestinians in Lebanon.

Birri Returns From Official Visit to Syria

NC2106175593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri returned to his residence in al-Musaylih today after a visit to Damascus, where he met Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. He also attended a banquet yesterday hosted by Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. Khaddam, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, General Hikmat al-Shihabi, and Major General 'Ali Duba also attended.

Over dinner, they discussed events in south Lebanon, the recent military escalation there, the progress of the Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington, and governmental affairs. [passage omitted]

Dallul, Delegation Return From Talks in Tehran

NC2106191293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul and his accompanying military delegation returned from Tehran today, where Dallul held talks with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the defense, foreign, and security ministers.

Defense Minister Views Government, Army Performance

NC1806194593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] In a radio interview today, National Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul said the cabinet portfolio swap between George Afram and Ilyas Hubayqah is a move limited in time, space, and scope. He said if a bigger cabinet reshuffle was planned, it would have been conducted already.

Dallul said Minister Afram enjoys the government's confidence, adding that events concerned only a difference over an electricity project and revealing that Afram was pressing for more than just an agreement with a German company.

Answering a question on Christian discontent and the controversy surrounding it, the defense minister said the issue is being used for political one-upmanship and called on those involved to behave more responsibly.

Dallul said the decision concerning government appointments was an achievement, but had a flaw that should be corrected through the action of those monitoring bodies that report the performance of a government department to the cabinet.

The defense minister said the opposition acts incorrectly and lacks a program and clear vision. He praised the spirit of democracy in the cabinet, particularly that of President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Rafiq al-Hariri.

Minister Dallul said the Lebanese Army still uses Syrian assistance in all the searches it carries out. Lebanon, he said, still needs Syria because it is the only country providing our country with military assistance and the Lebanese Army with its needs.

On the U.S. position that views Lebanon as an unstable country, the defense minister said the United States has a responsibility [toward Lebanon] because it is a party to the al-Ta'if accord, which, he said, is a Lebanese-Lebanese, Lebanese-Syrian, Lebanese-Arab, and Lebanese-international agreement.

Asked about inter-Palestinian killings, the defense minister said: We are monitoring the situation closely and seek to end it. He added that the Lebanese Army's entry to the Palestinian camps has domestic and external implications that we try to avoid.

Fadlallah Discusses Economy, Current Dangers

NC1906072893 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated that a free economy should mean equal distribution of wealth, noting that it is necessary to halt exploitation in order to avoid a public outcry.

His eminence said he fears that the Lebanese economy currently serves the interests of only one class and disregards the good of the majority, which suffers hunger and thirst and cannot wait for long-term results.

He added: The problem is that while there is much talk about peace, no one is examining the circumstances which led to the war.

Pointing out that there is currently talk about one part of society feeling frustrated and about one party feeling dominated by another, he remarked: Such vague talk aims to confuse and complicate matters in order to lead this country toward ruin.

'Allamah Fadlallah said: Today we face dangers greater than those confronted by Imam al-Husayn in Karbala' [early Muslim battle]. This is because arrogant powers and Jewish states [as heard] are conspiring against us and the [Arab] regimes are corrupt.

He warned people not to be recruited by local, regional, or international intelligence services under pressure of a so-called need to work or make a living. He said these services aim to strike at the Islamists.

Hizballah Memo to Rights Conference Criticizes U.S.

NC1906114693 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Hizballah has addressed a memorandum to the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna,

reviewing the Zionist attacks on south Lebanon and urging earnest efforts to uphold the human rights that the Israeli enemy disregards.

The memorandum advocates peace among nations, not among countries governed by materialist interests. It adds that 45 years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was issued, Israel, which was founded over the ruins of Muslim Palestine, continues to violate human rights and show contempt for international law, charters, and conventions, including the Geneva Conventions.

The memorandum says: Since Israel was established 45 years ago, people in Lebanon, Palestine, and other neighboring Arab countries have been subjected to oppression, displacement, and murder. Also, civil installations and populated areas have been devastated.

Hizballah's memorandum adds: The clear objective of this systematic violation of human rights is to evacuate the inhabitants of the largest possible territory in order to settle Jews from various parts of the world and also to subjugate the surrounding countries with this fait accompli.

The memorandum points out that the aforementioned actions have always been denounced and condemned by international bodies, including the United Nations, which in 1975 issued a resolution maintaining that Zionism is a form of racial discrimination.

The memorandum denounces the Zionist attacks on south Lebanon since 1948, noting that they still occur almost daily. It concludes by calling on the United Nations to uphold human rights in south Lebanon, a call that the Israeli occupiers continue to flout.

The memorandum holds the United States largely responsible for the persistence of this situation because it has regularly used its veto power to block numerous UN resolutions and statements condemning these practices.

Shiite Group Vows To Avenge al-Sadr Disappearance

NC2106153593 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 14 Jun 93 p 5

[Text] AL-NAHAR has received a statement in the name of The Battalions of Revenge [Kata'ib al-Tha'r], Lebanon branch, which reads: "Since the issue of Imam al-Sadr [chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, who disappeared on a visit to Libya in August 1978] remains unresolved, since the Lebanese Government has not pursued the case to unravel the fate of Imam al-Sadr and his two companions, and since the issue does not concern one sect only, we are pursuing it. We warn that we will not leave the world and Lebanon in security and stability. Many targets will be within our reach.

"We also warn those taking part in the election for the Shiite Council chairmanship that we will accept no one but Imam al-Sadr to be the custodian of the Shiite sect."

Israeli Shelling, Resistance Attacks Reported

Tank Said Destroyed

NC1906182493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Israeli occupation artillery in 'Alman and al-Shumariyah shelled the outskirts of Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Frun, and al-Ghanduriyah towns and the al-Litani river basin at 1715 today, using 155-mm field artillery. The shelling was accompanied by intense sniper fire on the same areas.

The Islamic Resistance announced this evening that one of its units attacked an Israeli tank between 'Alman and al-Shumariyah posts with machine guns and rockets at 1700. The unit destroyed the tank and killed or wounded its crew members.

Another Resistance unit attacked 'Alman and al-Shumariyah positions with rockets and machine guns.

Israeli-SLA Positions Attacked

NC2206061893 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 Jun 93

[Text] Islamic Resistance fighters carried out a lightning attack against the Zionist army and its agents [South Lebanese Army] in southern Lebanon this morning. The Islamic Resistance issued a statement saying that after the Zionist enemy had sent military reinforcements to raise the morale of its agents in al-Shumariyah and 'Alman, Islamic Resistance fighters used rockets and machine guns to attack al-Shumariyah and 'Alman at 0645 today, scoring direct hits on the enemy and its agents.

Afterward, the enemy's heavy artillery in al-Tayyibah shelled al-Litani River, Khaldun hill east of al-Qa'qa'iyah, and the periphery of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah.

Amal Group Attacks Position in South

NC2106141693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] A group from the Amal Movement carried out an attack today with machine guns and rockets against the Haddathah position. According to Amal sources, the position and its observation tower were destroyed by the attack. The sources added that following the attack, Israeli helicopters strafed the villages of Bra'shit, Haddathah, and Bayt Yahun.

Al-Shar' Cited on Peace Talks, Vienna Rights Meeting

PM2106134193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Jun 93 pp 1, 4

[Mahir 'Uthman report: "Al-Shar' Tells AL-HAYAH: We Want Comprehensive Solution; No Peace Without Complete Withdrawal"]

[Excerpts] Vienna—Answering questions put to him by AL-HAYAH after he delivered his country's speech at the World Conference on Human Rights, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that the Syrian delegation to the current peace negotiations in Washington is focusing on paragraph 5 of the Syrian document, "which talks about the essence of peace and security—that is, the complete Israeli withdrawal. We adhere to the achievement of the withdrawal because without it no form of peace will be established in the region."

Commenting on PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi's statement that there is an agreement among the Arab peace parties that whatever the progress achieved on any of the negotiation tracks, no partial agreements should be reached while there is lack of progress on the Palestinian track, Minister al-Shar' said: "We said that we want a comprehensive solution, and the U.S. initiative was made in the first place to achieve a comprehensive peace. Coordination among the Arab parties confirms the Arab desire for a comprehensive solution. However, that does not mean that we are moving slowly on every track. But at the same time we must realize that partial or separate solutions are unacceptable, because they will not achieve the just and comprehensive peace we talk about."

Asked to comment on the backtracking of the Israeli side to the Washington negotiations on statements attributed to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the effect that the Hebrew state would not return all the Golan Heights in the event of an agreement being reached with Syria, Minister al-Shar' told AL-HAYAH: "Of course, abandoning an error is a virtue. And at any rate, and regardless of the statements, what we are actually interested in is Israel's commitment to a complete withdrawal from the Golan and the other occupied Arab territories and for all the parties to adhere to the peace process and its authority and to work earnestly to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the region."

In his address to the Vienna conference the Syrian foreign minister criticized the use of double and selective standards in tackling human rights violations. In this context he raised three questions which he said "seem hypothetical but actually touch human conscience and threaten human destiny. [passage omitted]

Why did Minister al-Shar' focus on that kind of question and on criticizing double standards? He told AL-HAYAH: "In our view, how can some states have the right to exercise tutelage over most of the world states if talk about human rights does not take account of the fact that all people are equal before international law? This tutelage is unacceptable, especially as it is not based on real democracy in international relations. Nor is it based on fixed values applied to all people. For example, the Security Council resolutions have not been implemented in Bosnia. On the contrary, the Security Council resolution imposing sanctions on Yugoslavia imposed the same sanctions on Bosnia, when Yugoslavia manufactures arms and have arms whereas Muslims in Bosnia have no arms, nor do they manufacture arms.

"It is the same with the Arabs and Israel: Israel manufactures various types of conventional weapons and mass destruction weapons, nuclear, chemical, and biological. Nevertheless, the doors are open to it to import weapons and advanced technology from Western states, which close their doors to Syria and other Arab states so that they will not be able to acquire weapons to defend themselves. That is while Israel occupies Arab territories, violates the Palestinian people's rights, and builds settlements. And while the Arabs are the victim of aggression, they are treated as though they are the aggressors and Israel the victim. And Security Council resolutions are applied to Arab states and not to Israel.

"These are serious double standards, which is why I clearly pointed out in my address (to the Vienna international conference on human rights) that, if we fail in this conference to respect principles and laws and to use a single standard in international relations, this conference will not be able to make any achievement in favor of world states or their peoples."

Media Commentaries View Progress of Peace Talks

Clinton Involvement Seen as Stimulus

JN2006070893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 20 Jun 93

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN's editorial today discusses U.S. President Bill Clinton's statement in which he said he will intervene directly in the bilateral peace talks in harmony with the full, fair partner role pledged by the United States.

The paper says: The U.S. president's statement follows the stalemate in the 10th round of talks whose first week ended without achieving any progress because of Israel's intransigence and the obstacles it places on the path of the peace process. President Clinton's decision to become actively involved in the Washington talks in harmony with the full, fair partner role pledged by the United States should end the hindrances and stalemate facing the current talks. The full, fair partner must give priority to the UN Security Council resolutions. President Clinton has himself spoken about the Palestinian

people's national rights and pledged to respect all commitments made by the former U.S. Administration regarding the just and comprehensive settlement on all fronts of the conflict.

TISHRIN concludes its editorial by saying that the Arabs are advocates of peace and have proven this in word and deed. Peace and occupation, however, do not converge and there is no alternative to Israel's complete withdrawal from all occupied territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights. The desired peace is the peace which ends injustice and oppression, establishes justice and rights, and ends a long, dark period of occupation and suffering in the territory now under occupation.

Israel's 'Maneuvering Policy' Noted

JN2106062693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Jun 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH today comments on Israeli maneuvers in the peace process. It says: The statements by the Israelis, whether by Rabin government officials, by Rabin, or by the members of the negotiating delegations, have been jumping from one track to another, especially during the first week of the 10th round.

They talked about the Syrian track, then about the Palestinian track, and then about the Lebanese track. In each case, they failed to express minimal compliance with the fundamentals of the peace process, which is based on unequivocal terms of reference embodied in unambiguous resolutions.

On the Syrian track, AL-BA'TH notes that so far the world has not heard any word or phrase hinting at full Israeli withdrawal from occupied Golan. The Israelis either use circumlocutions, such as withdrawal from the Golan, or speak about security arrangements with conditions that conflict with the peace initiative.

On the Lebanese track, the paper adds, so far the Israeli negotiator and Rabin have not acknowledged that the forces in the south represent an occupying power that violates human rights and kills innocent and defenseless civilians every day, let alone the fact that the Israelis would not even mention Resolution 425, which stipulates an unconditional withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese territory.

On the Palestinian track, AL-BA'TH affirms that so far the Israeli negotiators have not said anything indicating their explicit recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people, foremost being their right to self-determination and an independent state on their national soil.

AL-BA'TH concludes that Israel's maneuvering policy, of which these are examples, cannot continue indefinitely. The talks are still immobilized. There is no serious sign on the horizon of an end to this policy, unless the U.S. Administration plays the role of a full partner and an honest broker during this round. It is now clear that the peace process requires this of the nation that can force Israel to abide by international resolutions if it really wants to.

Israeli 'Partial Withdrawal' Rejected

JN2106143893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1136 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The second week of the 10th round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations will begin tomorrow in a monotonous atmosphere lacking even a glimmer of hope for achieving results that could push the peace process one step closer to its objective.

This is because the Israelis are still procrastinating, doing their best to keep the peace talks away from the substantive issues that form the basis of the peace process. They are also steering the talks toward mazes of secondary and formal issues that should be the results, rather than the bases, of peace. Even when the Israelis touch on substantive issues, such as withdrawal from the territories occupied in the June 1967 aggression and the 1978 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, they do not talk about total withdrawal. They only talk about partial withdrawal from the Golan, and show conditional readiness to withdraw from southern Lebanon. Meanwhile, the Israelis insist that Jerusalem should be outside the framework of negotiations.

No one can deny that these Israeli positions entirely defy the basis of the peace process and undermine its terms of reference. The peace process stresses the inevitability of Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories as a step to achieving peace.

Everyone is aware that a comprehensive peace requires total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, which Israel has so far specifically rejected. Israel demands comprehensive peace, open borders, and normalization of relations in return for partial withdrawal from the occupied territories and a fragile self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which will keep the Palestinian territories under Israeli tutelage and Jerusalem under Israeli control.

After 20 months of futile talks, what have the Israelis presented in order to render the peace process a success? What have the Arabs presented in return? In fact, the Arabs have confirmed their readiness to achieve comprehensive peace in return for full Israeli withdrawal. The Arabs did not go to Washington to sell out their territories or parts of their territories in return for comprehensive peace with Israel.

It is completely illogical for the Arabs to relinquish sovereignty over their territories as a whole. It is equally illogical that a partial withdrawal can achieve comprehensive peace. It is inconceivable under all international

laws to divide peace into pieces. Peace is an indivisible whole, so it is either a comprehensive peace or no peace at all.

Comprehensive peace can only be achieved with full Israeli withdrawal. This was emphasized in the terms of reference of the peace process and acknowledged by the whole international community, including the United States, the full partner in these talks.

So far, the Israelis have only offered partial peace based on both partial withdrawal and impossible demands related to security issues. These demands encroach on Arab sovereignty and keep Arab security open to threats. If the Israelis want to discuss security issues and arrangements, they should realize that the international resolutions, on which the peace process was based, have stressed the principle of security for all parties and not for Israel alone.

Speaking of security arrangements, the Arabs need such arrangemets more than Israel does because it is their territories that have been occupied. Moreover, it is the Arabs, and not Israel, who have come under aggression for approximately 50 years. The Arabs have never been the aggressors. All Security Council and UN General Assembly resolutions have urged Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. Not a single resolution has condemned the Arabs throughout the entire Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Washington peace talks are an opportunity for Israel to prove its good intentions if it is really serious about peace. We do not believe that the Tel Aviv rulers will do this by themselves. Therefore, the United States, which declared itself a sponsor of the peace talks and a full partner, must fully play its role and oblige the Israelis to discuss the substance rather than the marginal issues of the peace process. Only then can there be talk about the possibility of making progress and achieving peace.

Columnist Condemns UN 'Tutelage' in Somalia

JN1906154993 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 15 Jun 93 p 3

["With the Events" column by 'Abd-al-Karim 'Abd-al-Rahim: "What Do They Want From Somalia?!"]

[Text] European observers and reporters have criticized what is happening in Somalia under UN banners.

Although we are confident that what is happening is not an act of retaliation for the Pakistani troops who were killed in Mogadishu, we support the protection of troops who serve under the banners of establishing security and peace raised by the United Nations.

However, if we return to the objective behind the UN intervention in Somalia—whether it is the declared objective when Marines were deployed along the Somali coast or it is the undeclared objective when UN troops opened fire with machine guns and killed Somali civilians demonstrating for an end to the tutelage over their homeland, then the observer would realize that the United Nations became a party to the Somali conflict instead of remaining an advocate for security and peace among the Somali parties fighting for power.

What is strange is that international forces firing at civilians happens only when it is an Arab state; that is, a member of the Arab League. Observers who denounced both the ground and air attacks on the Somalis say that the United Nations cannot prevent a human being from exercising his right to declare his political and social opinion over his country's soil!!

Despite the elections held in Cambodia under the supervision of this international organization and the success of a certain list of candidates in these elections, other Cambodian parties are waging a war against UN forces. Meanwhile, the latter are not launching a ground and air attack on the Cambodian capital....Why?

While the decision to attack Somalia and the decision not to punish Israel, which has been refusing to implement UN resolutions for more than half a century and is even refusing to implement Resolution 799, appear to be opposite decisions, both decisions undermine the Arabs and their human rights.

The Somalis have differences among themselves just as separate parties differ in any country of the world, but the methods differ according to customs, traditions, and concepts that prevail in these societies. The United Nations came to disengage the Somali factions not to kill them, shell their capital with aircraft and missiles, and kill their women and children. Although it is extremely painful to say, we believe that dying of hunger in the civil war is better than dying from UN gunfire!!

Unemployment has been killing the Palestinians in the occupied territories ever since the siege by Israeli forces three months ago. Reports say that there is a 51 percent unemployment rate in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank and that financial losses exceed $5 million each day. Moreover, because of the siege, children are being killed by occupation bullets or dying from anemia because of hunger. So why does the United Nations not launch its ground and air attacks to protect 2 million Palestinians whose lives are in danger as a result of the siege? Why not use a single standard when dealing with Palestine and Somalia?!!

The bitter fact is that Somalia is an Arab state and tutelage is imposed by UN military force!!

Lebanese Transportation Minister Pays 3-Day Visit

Meets Counterpart 19 Jun

JN1906163493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Damascus, 19 Jun (SANA)—An official session of talks was held at the Transportation Ministry at

noon today between the Syrian side led by Dr. Mufid 'Abd-al-Karim, minister of transportation, and the Lebanese side led by 'Umar Misqawi, minister of state for transport affairs. Members of both delegations also attended. [passage omitted]

The two sides discussed and reviewed cooperation in the fields of transportation, transit trade, civil aviation, railways, and maritime transportation as well as ways to promote bilateral relations to secure the best services for both fraternal countries, especially since the doors for bilateral cooperation in all fields are open without any problem or difficulty.

Four joint committees were set up on transportation, transit trade, aviation, railways, and maritime transportation. They are entrusted with laying the sound bases to promote cooperation between both fraternal countries in these fields.

Meets Prime Minister

JN1906182893 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received 'Umar Misqawi, Lebanese minister of state for transport affairs, at 1930 today. Transportation Minister Dr. Mufid 'Abd-al-Karim attended the meeting.

Misqawi conveyed Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's greetings to Mahmud al-Zu'bi who asked him to convey his greetings to al-Hariri. Talks dealt with bilateral relations of fraternity, cooperation, and coordination and ways to promote them in the interest of both sisterly countries and peoples.

Signs Meeting Minutes

JN2106165693 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Damascus, 21 Jun (SANA)—Minutes of the Syrian-Lebanese meetings on transportation were signed at noon today. Dr. Mufid 'Abd-al-Karim, Syrian transportation minister, and 'Umar Misqawi, Lebanese minister of state for transport affairs, signed the minutes, with delegates from both sides attending.

In the fields of transportation and transit trade, the minutes stipulate efforts to promote bilateral cooperation to provide the necessary facilities for vehicles carrying passengers and commodities between the two countries and across their territories. This stems from bilateral agreements and is in line with the agreement on organizing transportation among Arab League states in a manner that secures freedom of movement for the vehicles registered in both countries without hindrance, thus satisfying the the desire of both fraternal countries.

In the field of railways, Syria expressed its readiness to take part in building and investing in railway lines specified by the Leba contacts in order to work out practical programs in this regard.

In the field of air transportation, the two sides agreed on ways to promote and expand bilateral relations, particularly organizing air navigation routes and communications control centers between the two countries.

In the field of maritime transportation, the two sides agreed to promote bilateral relations and share their experiences by holding meetings between the parties concerned in both countries. [passage omitted]

Departs Damascus 21 Jun

JN2106190893 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1650 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Damascus, 21 Jun (SANA)—'Umar Misqawi, Lebanese minister of state for transport affairs, and his accompanying delegation left Damascus this evening after a three-day visit to Syria.

He was seen off at the Syrian-Lebanese border post in Judaydat Yabus by Transportation Minister Dr. Mufid 'Abd-al-Karim, Assistant Transportation Minister Ahmad Bashir Shahin, Civil Aviation Director General Major General Salih Hakim, and the Transportation Ministry's directors general.

Afghanistan

Ministry Protests CIS Firing on Border Areas

LD2106180593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Jun 93

["Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan"]

[Text] According to a responsible official of Konduz Province, quoting a report by a reliable source, the CIS Joint Armed Forces stationed along the Tajik-Afghan border opened intensive heavy weapons fire for two hours on 18-19 June at Archi and Khowaja Ghar Districts, located on the southern side of Amu Darya, and at Shahrawan, Qazloq [words indistinct], Qamar, and Quroq regions. As a result of this firing, there was heavy loss of life and material among the local people and numerous stocks of wheat were set on fire.

In consideration of the principles of good-neighborliness and Islamic fraternity and the principles of inviolability of borders, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan regards such undesirable actions as contrary to the wishes of the Afghan side. While expressing its sadness and concern, the Afghan side hopes that the Tajikistan Republic will display the necessary sense of realism and reciprocal goodwill and refrain from repeating such actions in the future.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan, as declared time and again, desires the consolidation and strengthening of relations with friendly and neighboring countries, in particular with the Republic of Tajikistan, on the basis of internationally recognized principles. The Islamic State of Afghanistan is endeavoring to solve as soon as possible all problems and difficulties through constructive talks, in consideration of the supreme interests of both sides. We once again take this opportunity to express our complete readiness for talks on removing all misunderstandings [words indistinct] and we expect reciprocal reaction from the Republic of Tajikistan.

Hekmatyar Chairs 21 Jun Cabinet Meeting

LD2106182293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] A cabinet meeting, chaired by esteemed Golboddin Hekmatyar, prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, was held today at the historical Darulaman Palace on the outskirts of Kabul. The meeting opened with a brief speech by the prime minister. Matters concerning the transfer of weapons, the formation of a national Islamic army, and the establishment of peace in Kabul city were comprehensively discussed.

The press department of the Prime Ministry reported that Esteemed Hedayat Amin Arsala, minister of foreign affairs; esteemed Sayd Mohammad, minister of construction; esteemed Mawlawi Jalilollah Mawlawizada, minister of education and training; esteemed (Hayatollah) Balaghi, minister of trade; esteemed Sayd Mohammad Ayub, minister of water and power; esteemed Ostad Sayd Omar [name indistinct], minister of higher and vocational education; esteemed Qazi Mohammad Amin Weqad, minister of communication; esteemed Sayed Mohammad Ali Jawed, minister of planning; esteemed Mawlawi Arsala Rahmani, minister of endowment [words indistinct]; esteemed Sayd Hosayn Anwari, minister of works and social affairs; and Mawlawi Abdorrahim, deputy minister of justice, participated in the meeting.

The cabinet discussed topics concerning security, the collection of heavy weapons under Jalalabad agreements, and matters regarding elections and the reactivation of local administration. It took decisions in these spheres. The cabinet also discussed matters concerning the organization, composition and regularization of the activity of the units and companies of the Ministry of Home Affairs and their [word indistinct] and responsibilities in view of the present [word indistinct] of the country and made the necessary decisions.

The cabinet ministers also appointed a board comprised of esteemed Qazi Mohammad Amin Weqad; esteemed Sayed Mohammad Ali Jawed; esteemed Mawlawi Arsala Rahmani and esteemed Mawlawi Abdorrahim to work toward the implementation of the cabinet's decisions. The board has the authority to discuss the decisions of the Home Affairs Ministry Commission with the relevant departments and make necessary decisions for their implementation.

The cabinet meeting also decided that the full members of the election commission at the same time cannot work at the posts of ministers and deputy ministers. Other state officials can work on an attachment basis in the Election Commission.

Today's meeting ended at 1700.

'Tense Wrangling' Reported

BK2106161693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1358 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Kabul, June 21 (AFP)—Afghan premier Golboddin Hekmatyar convened a meeting of his cabinet on the outskirts of Kabul Monday, amid tension and accusations that rival factions had tried to prevent the ministers from attending.

The tense wrangling between the Hekmatyar faction, and factions closer to President Borhanoddin Rabbani, came hours after six rockets hit the city overnight, leaving two wounded, and factional clashes at the edge of the capital wounded another seven.

It also came after both the United Nations and Iran had expressed their hopes that the new coalition government, agreed on last month, would end the intense mojahedin factional fighting that has devastated Kabul in the year since the collapse of the communist regime.

The delayed meeting of 12 of the 14 ministers took place at Darulaman Palace, which served as the defence ministry under the old communist regime, and Hekmatyar spokesman said the main topic had been security in the city.

"The question (of security) is the most important for the time being," Hekmatyar spokesman Karib Alrahman Sayid told AFP, adding that repairing the road to and from Darulaman had also figured in the talks.

The ministers had earlier in the day taken a tortuous route to the palace, charging that they were forced into the lengthy detour by forces of rival faction troops loyal to a command reinforced by Uzbek militiamen.

A spokesman for the Uzbeks, General Majid, later denied the charges as "fabricated allegations", and counter-charged that the cabinet had not informed them of the meeting and they had only been exercising the right to protect the area of Kabul under their control.

The northern Shura-i-Nazar coalition, backed by the Uzbeks, controls a key intersection leading to Darulaman as well as three of the country's ministries.

Hekmatyar's faction Monday also charged that Shura-i-Nazar loyalists had kidnapped two of its officials. Majid countercharged that it was the responsibility of the new prime minister to come into the center of the war-devastated city.

Pakistani Premier Congratulates Hekmatyar

LD1806222293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] His Excellency Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, sent the following congratulatory message addressed to esteemed Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan:

Please accept my best congratulations on behalf of the government, people of Pakistan, and myself on the occasion of your selection as prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. The people of Pakistan and Afghanistan are enjoying good relations on the basis of cultural, historic, and religious ties and these relations have reached the highest stage after the Jihad victory of the Muslim people of Afghanistan. We are earnestly hoping that your government will be able to restore a durable peace and national reconciliation so that the people of Afghanistan who have suffered from the pains of over a decade long of infighting [as heard], enjoy now the fruit of the Jihad. I would like to assure you of my government's endeavor and support for the rehabilitation of the refugees and reconstruction of Afghanistan. I hope you accept my best wishes for your good health and prosperity.

[Signed] Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

India

Pakistani 'Spy' Arrested at Delhi Train Station

BK1906150493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] A Pakistani spy, Mohammad Sharif, was arrested from Old Delhi Railway Station last night while he was trying to board a train to the Nepalese border. The Delhi police commissioner, Mr. M.B. Kaushal, told newsmen in New Delhi today that Sharif was wanted in several cases of bomb blasts and terrorist and subversive activities in the country. Sharif was a key officer of the Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence and the pivotal figure in the Pakistani top secret K-2 operation. Under the K-2 operation, he was trying to bring together militants from Punjab and Kashmir and fundamentalist groups of Sikhs and Muslims to organize joint operations, including bomb blasts at major towns.

Committee Summons Mehta on Payoff Charge

BK2106160193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] The Joint Parliamentary Committee [JPC] probing the security scandal has decided to summon the stock broker Harshad Mehta for giving evidence on his allegation on political payoffs. The JPC chairman, Mr. Ram Nivas Mirdha, told reporters a short while ago in New Delhi that the committee has also decided to summon representatives of the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] and the Income Tax Department for evidence.

Replying to a question, he said the issue of summoning the prime minister also to give evidence came up before the meeting, but the issue will be taken up after the deposition of Harshad Mehta. He said the JPC has rejected the requested of Harshad Mehta's lawyer, Mr. Ram Jethmalani, to appear before the committee on behalf of his client.

Mr. Manmohan Sharma, private secretary to the late Satpal Mittal, has denied that he accompanied Mr. Satpal Mittal, his son Mr. Sunil Mittal, Harshad Mehta, and Ashwin Mehta to the prime minister's residence to deliver any money. In a copy to an affidavit released in New Delhi today, he said these allegations are totally false. He also denied that he received a message from any member of the prime minister's personal staff regarding the delivery of keys of the suitcase containing the money.

Advani on BJP's Domestic, Foreign Policies

BK1806131893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] Mr. L.K. Advani has taken over as the president of the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP]. He assumed office from the outgoing president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, during the national council session of the party at Bangalore this morning.

Delivering the presidential address, Mr. Advani said if voted to power at the center, his party will change the face of the country in 10 years by improving infrastructural facilities like drinking water, power, and transport. It will also integrate family planning with literacy and other welfare programs. Alleging that the country's leadership has failed, Mr. Advani called for a new approach and self-discipline.

Criticizing the dependence on foreign aid, he said the country's destiny is to be decided by its own people and not by outsiders. This, he said, would be the thrust of his party's economic policy. Mr. Advani said his party welcomes foreign investments in high-tech and large capital industries but will not treat foreign companies preferentially.

Mr. Advani alleged that Pakistan is systematically trying to disturb the unity in India and cautioned that peace can be achieved in the subcontinent only if India effectively thwarts the mischief.

On India's foreign policy, Mr. Advani said that the country should address itself to the vital need for a South Asian initiative to enable the vast reservoir of humanity to free itself from poverty.

The new BJP president said that the Congress-I Working Committee's [CWC] charges against his party in regard to Harshad Mehta's allegations are a public acknowledgment that his party has been regarded as a principal crusader against corruption. Deviating from the written text in the course of his presidential address at the party's national council session in Bangalore today, he alleged that the CWC resolution did not contain any definite rebuttal against Harshad Mehta's accusations.

BJP Urges Center To Reject Dunkel Proposals

BK1906075693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] The national council of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has urged the center to reject the Dunkel proposals on agriculture. In a resolution adopted at its meeting in Bangalore, it said the proposals are part of international efforts to stifle the country's agricultural growth. The party demanded full restoration of fertilizer subsidies to farmers.

National Front, Leftists Demand Rao Resignation

BK2006054493 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] The leaders of the National Front and Left parties have reiterated their demand that the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, should step down immediately. In a press statement issued after their meeting in New Delhi, the leaders said it is unfortunate that the Congress Working Committee, the Congress Parliamentary Party, and the cabinet—instead of giving a convincing explanation—have expressed faith in the prime minister to cover up everything. They also stressed that the Joint Parliamentary Committee probing the securities scam should summon the prime minister, Harshad Mehta, and those named by Mehta. The meeting was attended by Harkishen Singh Surjeet of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]; Mr. D. Raja and Mr. Atul Kumar Anjan, both of the CPI; Mr. Sharad Yadav, Mr. K.C. Tyagi, and Mr. Ram Vir Biduri, all Janata Dal; Mr. Tridib Chowdhury and Mr. Abani Roy, both RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party]; and Mr. D.D. Shastri of the Forward Bloc.

Reportage on Visit of Czech Foreign Minister

Zieleniec Meets Dinesh Singh, Others

BK2106075493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] The Czech foreign minister, Mr. Joseph Zieleniec, who arrived in the capital this morning, held discussions with the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, and the minister of state, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, this morning. Mr. Zieleniec is meeting the Indian trading community as well. The Czech foreign minister will also call on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma.

Zieleniec Delivers Message

BK2106103693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] The Czech foreign minister, Mr. Josef Zieleniec, called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] today. The minister delivered a letter from the Czech president to Dr. Sharma. The letter emphasized the Czech Republic's desire to continue close relations with Asia in which India gets a high priority. Dr. Sharma complimented the Czech Republic on its smooth transition to a market economy. The president said there is a great scope for bilateral cooperation.

Mr. Zieleniec met his counterpart Mr. Dinesh Singh and held discussions.

Zieleniec Comments

LD2106152193 Prague CTK in English 1443 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] New Delhi, June 21 (CTK)—Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec, currently touring several south-east Asian countries, pays a one-day working visit to New Delhi today.

Zieleniec is accompanied by a strong group of representatives of leading Czech enterprises, mainly engineering ones.

The Czech delegation was received by Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma, which indicates the importance adjudged to the visit by Indian representatives.

After his meeting with Sharma Zieleniec told journalists that he was surprised how well informed about the

developments in the Czech Republic the Indians were, mainly Minister of State for External Affairs Raghunangan Lal Bhatia, who visited Prague in mid-February. Bhatia voiced his satisfaction with the fact that a delegation representing Czech commercial and business circles arrived in India, as India was interested in reviving and developing the two countries' trade, which had been rather stagnating in recent years.

Zieleniec also shortly met with Indian Minister of External Affairs Dinesh Singh, who is recovering after a serious disease.

The two parties confirmed that Czech President Vaclav Havel would visit India at the beginning of 1994.

Czech businessmen, who met with representatives of the Indian industry, showed interest in attaining a contract for the construction of a pipeline to carry oil and its derivatives from Khanda to Bhatinda. If the decision, to be made in the nearest future, is favourable, the project will be realised by several Czech designing and supplying companies, mainly by "Skodaexport."

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Arrives 21 Jun

BK2106074293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] The Sri Lankan prime minister, Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe, arrived in New Delhi this morning on a two-day visit while on his way back home from Paris. During his stay Mr. Wickremasinghe will have wide-ranging talks with the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao. He will also hold discussions with the ministers of finance and external affairs. The Sri Lankan prime minister will call on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma. This will be the first high-level contact between India and Sri Lanka after the assassination of President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Talks With Bhatia

BK2106154093 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1457 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Official statement on the meeting between Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe and Minister of State for External Affairs Mr. R.L. Bhatia]

[Text] Minister of State for External Affairs Mr. R.L. Bhatia called on Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe today at 1600. The meeting lasted for about 30 minutes. The Sri Lankan prime minister was assisted by the Sri Lankan high commissioner, secretary to the prime minister, and the deputy high commissioner. Mr Bhatia was accompanied by our high commissioner and joint secretary.

Mr. R.L. Bhatia renewed to the prime minister India's deepest condolences at the assassination of President Premadasa and felicited the Sri Lankan Government on the mature and steady manner in which it oversaw the transition. The prime minister briefed Mr. Bhatia on the security and political situation in his country and spoke of the continuing efforts of the Sri Lankan Government to seek solutions of the ethnic issue. Both sides agree that bilateral relations were excellent between the two countries and there was a tremendous potential for further strengthening trade and technical relations as well as cooperation in the field of education. An early meeting of the Joint Commission was called for by both parties.

Russia Agrees To Set Up Industrial Data Bank

BK2006070293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] The Russian Government has agreed to set up in Bombay a data bank on technology to enable the Indian industries seek appropriate technology transfers from that country. A memorandum of understanding for this was signed in Moscow recently by the Russian Ministry of Science and Technology and the All India Manufacturers Association, AIMA. This is the first-ever agreement signed by the Russian Government with any non-government organization.

Indian Business Prospects in Russia Viewed

BK2106003193 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 14 Jun 93 p 13

[Text] Indian businessmen setting up shops in Russia are being advised not to look for quick gains but stick it out through that country's turbulent economic transition for a rewarding future.

"Russia is the most interesting market for Indians these days but it is not a bargain," Sovincom, the association for business promotion with India, tells visiting business delegations. The advice comes in the context of the assessment by many Russian businessmen that Indians are interested only in making easy profits- and are insistent on money back guarantees on their investments.

Last month the Russian authorities played host to at least three delegations from India--those from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the All India Manufacturers Organisation (AIMO).

AIMO signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation with the Russian Ministry of Science and Technology. In response to the Indian side's keeness to establish long term relations, the Russian Ministry promptly offered prime office space in Moscow to enable AIMO to coordinate bilateral trade.

Speaking about the general attitude of Indian businessmen in the face of Russia's economic difficulties Sovincom president Yuri Katon, who spent several years at the Russian mission in Delhi and speaks flawless Hindi, says "They mostly want to sell, earn their money and go."

But Russia, nowadays, does not provide this type of bonanza because people do not have money to buy goods produced in accordance with international pricing standards. At today's international exchange rates, more than 1,000 roubles make a dollar, and the escalation each day is almost 30 to 40 roubles.

"No Russian would buy a shirt costing $150. I am convinced that Indian businessmen are capable of producing the same quality shirts, or ties or suits for much less. At $ 70,000 roubles a shirt, they could sweep the Russian markets clean," says Katon.

Russia is thus offering a ready made productiion capacity in garments to Indian entrepreneurs, who can bring fabrics from India. The only condition is that there must be complete absorption of labour at the plants that are standing still today.

With the cost of 'highly qualified labour' just 10 to 15 dollars a month, it is a very attractive proposition. "But Indian businessmen must stay here, work, produce, pay money, and then take their profits," he says.

Another area where India still enjoys tremendous goodwill in the erstwhile Soviet Union is in the field of medicinal drugs. Drug stores across Russia do not have stocks of even basic medicines like aspirin. If they do, they are available at astronomical prices.

An initial survey conducted by a Bangalore-based pharmaceutical company has led its directors to conclude that they could use Indian raw materials to produce registered drugs in Russia at prices 10 times lower than what they are currently sold for in Russian stores.

"We would certainly be interested if you can offer us good quality medicines at cheap rates," says Alexander Alexandrov director of the Industrial Enterprises Association of St. Petersburg, an umbrella organisation of Russian enterprises.

"Indian medicines are already popular here, and this is one area where returns are guaranteed as no failures for people will buy," he says.

However, Katon says: "Russia will become fully adjusted to the international market and the buying capacity of the people will stabilise. It does not matter how much this will cost. The capacity of paper money is not important but we know the that the stabilisatiion of the rouble is possible in the near future."

He expects this process to take another two years. In some areas, Russia has already stabilised even after the breaking up of precious economic links with the other republics.

"When we have found how to replace our broken links (with other republics) we will be on our way," he says. Adds a local Indian resident who has been in Russia for the last four decades, "It is up to the Indian businessmen to be that link and show them the way."

Others are already beginning to eye this country in a big way but lack the goodwill that Indians enjoy. If "Indians do not seize the advantage now they will soon find the initiative snatched from them—by the Germans or the Japanese."

Japan Finalizes $1.5 Billion Aid for Projects

BK2006034493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Japan has finalized the official economic cooperation fund assistance of $1.5 billion to three power projects in India. The projects are the Bakreshwar, Faridabad and (Anpra). The union minister of power, Mr. N.K. P. Salve, said in Singapore yesterday that the Japanese pledge will be announced in Paris on the first week of next month.

U.S. Stand Makes Fate of Nuclear Plant Uncertain

BK1906142293 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 11 Jun 93 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, June 10 (PTI)—The United States is not likely to allow India to reprocess the Tarapur spent fuel unless it agreed to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), according to a highly placed embassy official here. He said that his Government is likely to react "very sharply" if India defied the U.S. and went ahead with reprocessing the spent fuel that is of American origin.

The American position spells doom for the Tarapur nuclear plant which has just received the last supply of enriched uranium fuel from France. The stock will enable operation of the plant till the end of 1994 or early 1995 but not beyond.

A spokesman of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission [AEC] said India was hoping to keep the plant running for another 15 years using MOX (mixed oxide) fuel prepared from plutonium obtained by reprocessing the spent fuel.

The U.S. official said that India had no right to reprocess without permission from his Government. "Such permission is not possible under the U.S. nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978," he said.

According to the official, the reprocessing issue is likely to snowball into a "major diplomatic problem" unless it is resolved soon through bilateral talks.

The twin 210-mw [megawatt] reactors in operation since 1969 were built by the International General Electronic Company of the United States under an Inter-Governmental agreement signed in 1963. The agreement expires on Oct. 25 this year.

The AEC spokesman said the expiry of the agreement "automatically lifts Tarapur from international safeguards, and gives India the freedom to reprocess the spent fuel that is Indian property under the terms of the 1963 agreement."

The U.S. official, however, said that AEC has no legal ground for reprocessing even after the expiry of the agreement because the agreement had specified that reprocessing would be allowed only with U.S. consent. "Such consent was not given and is not likely to be given under the existing U.S. domestic law," he said.

Asked to comment on U.S. objection to reprocessing, the AEC spokesman said: "The 1963 agreement itself provided for reprocessing upon 'joint determination' of the parties. Joint determination does not mean prior approval of the U.S. but it only means that the U.S. must be convinced that the reprocessing plant can be adequately safeguarded."

According to Indian officials, the U.S. accepted the design of the reprocessing plant as early as in 1968 but failed to formally complete the 'joint determination' exercise, "thereby making the important clause of the 1963 agreement infructuous."

The officials said the reprocessing plant built at considerable cost has not been used for the purpose for which it was built. It is currently used to extract plutonium from fuel discharged by the power plant at Kota.

The AEC spokesman said the MOX fuel is the option India has to keep the Tarapur plant running because the enriched uranium produced indigenously in Mysore is considered not sufficient.

Tarapur is the only nuclear plant in India requiring enriched uranium. The U.S. was regularly supplying fuel to Tarapur until the Indian nuclear test in 1974. After that, supplies became erratic and stopped altogether in 1981.

France, which became the supplier from 1983, informed the Indian Government six months ago that it will not provide fuel after 1993 unless India opened all its nuclear facilities to international inspection. With objections now raised over reprocessing, the fate of India's oldest nuclear power station has become uncertain.

Iran

Velayati Attends Forum Foundation; Meet Leaders

Talks With Macedonian, Uzbek Leaders

LD1806223493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] The expansion of bilateral relations as well as an increase in regional cooperation was discussed in the Friday afternoon meeting of our country's foreign minister with the president of Uzbekistan.

In this meeting that took place during the meeting of the Forum Foundation at the Crans-Montana in Switzerland, the President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov, pointing to the common historic, cultural, and religious elements between Iran and Uzbekistan, as well as the importance that his country places on relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, called for expansion of bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Meanwhile in a meeting between the Macedonian Prime Minister Branko Crvenkovski and our country's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati the situation in Balkans, particularly the tragedy of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the situation in Macedonia was discussed.

The Macedonian prime minister reported extensively on the latest situation in the Balkan region and recent developments in Macedonia.

Pointing to the importance that his country places on the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Macedonian prime minister called for the recognition of Macedonia by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It should be pointed out that 180 world personalities from the political, cultural, and economic fields are in Switzerland to attend the meeting of the international Forum Foundation where the situation in Balkans and the newly independent republics is being discussed.

Acclaims Uzbek Links

LD1906101593 Tehran IRNA in English 0737 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Crans Montana, Switzerland, June 19, IRNA—Macedonian Prime Minister Branko Crvenkovski in a meeting with [Iranian] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Friday called on Iran to recognize the Republic of Macedonia.

Velayati and Crvenkovski were among the 180 world political, cultural and economic figures here to attend the international seminar of "Fondation du Forum," established in 1990. The seminar which began its work Friday is to discuss the situation in the Balkans and in other newly-independent republics.

The developments in the Balkans, particularly the tragic situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, was among the issues discussed between Velayati and the Macedonian Prime Minister.

Referring to Iran's vital role in the region, Crvenkovski said his country believed that recognition of Macedonia by the Islamic Republic would have an important impact on establishment of peace, stability and security in the Balkans.

Expressing grave concern over the current situation in the Balkans, its impact on the entire region and continuation of the Serbs' crimes against Bosnian people as

well as other newly-born republics of the Balkans. *Velayati said Iran would consider recognition* of Macedonia positively.

A source close to the Iranian delegation told IRNA that it had been decided in the meeting that the Iranian and Macedonian experts review the details of how to implement the recognition demand.

Later in the day, Velayati discussed ways of expansion of Iran- Uzbekistan relations and regional cooperation with Uzbek President Islam Karimov, here to attend the two-day seminar.

Referring to the historical, cultural and religious similarities between the two countries, Karimov lauded Iran's judicious policies and said Tashkent was enthusiastically waiting for the visit of [Iranian] President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the republic.

He also called for accelerating the implementation of the road and railway projects linking the two countries to Central Asia as well as promotion of bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Stressing the need for expanding regional cooperation, Karimov underlined the importance Uzbekistan attached to the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

Velayati pointed to the significance Iran attached to Central Asia, Uzbekistan in particular, and stressed the need for upgrading the cooperation between Iranian and Uzbek private and state sectors to promote bilateral relations.

Velayati described as very important promotion of regional cooperation and termed ECO as an appropriate framework for such cooperation.

Meets Turkmen, Belarus Officials

LD1906194293 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Crans-Montana (Switzerland), June 19, IRNA—Ways of expanding cooperation between Iran and Turkmenistan were discussed by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Turkmen Vice President Boris Shikhmoradov, here Saturday.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Forum Foundation conference which opened here Friday with participation of 180 political, cultural and economic figures from 50 countries.

The two men also underlined the need for stepping up cooperation within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

The second summit of the 10 member ECO is to be held next month in Istanbul, Turkey, where Iran is expected to be represented by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The Islamic Republic hosted the first summit last year which saw the organisation expand to include the six Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union. Later Afghanistan was added as the 10th member of ECO originally founded by Iran, Turkey and Pakistan.

Later today, Velayati met with Belarus Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko who called for establishment of diplomatic relations between Tehran and Minsk.

Petr proposed that a delegation from his country visit Iran to help promote ties between Belarus and Iran.

The two sides agreed that Iran and Belarus set up consulates in the other country's capital.

Velayati said Iran was prepared to provide all necessary facilities for this purpose.

Urges Lifting of 'Unjust Arms Embargo'

LD2006151793 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Excerpt] ['Ali Akbar] Velayati, our country's foreign minister currently in Switzerland for the last day of the international seminar Forum Foundation, described the position of the Islamic world on the developments in the Balkans region, especially the tragic situation in Bosnia, and called on international organizations, especially the Security Council, to take serious and decisive action in the face of continuing Serbian crimes. Velayati criticized the attitude of the United States and Europe towards Serbian crimes and said: The inappropriate stand of the U.S. and some European countries is a signal to the Serbs indicating that they have support for the use of force for the destruction of the Muslim people of Bosnia or that, at the very least, their behavior will be tolerated. He called for the removal of the unjust arms embargo against the Muslims and said, the one- sided embargo against Muslims deprives them of resources to defend themselves against aggression; it is in fact nothing more than a reward for the Serbs. [passage omitted]

Assures Izetbegovic of 'Full Support'

LD2106172093 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1601 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Vienna, 21 Jun (TANJUG)—Bosnian Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic met with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati at Vienna Airport today. Following the talks, Izetbegovic left for the EC summit in Copenhagen. Velayati was on a stop-over en route from the Swiss town of Crans-Montana to Tehran.

According to a statement released by the Iranian Embassy in Vienna, Velayati expressed Tehran's full support for Izetbegovic and rejected the plan on the division of Bosnia as an act threatening the sovereignty of that former Yugoslav republic.

However, the statement does not specify what Iran's "full support" for Bosnia's Muslims implies. In Crans-Montana, where he took part in an international conference, Velayati called on the international community to intervene militarily in Bosnia and to lift the embargo on arms deliveries to Bosnia's Muslims.

Winds Up Tour, Returns Home

LD2106082593 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 21, (IRNA)—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati wound up his six-day visit to Hungary and Switzerland and returned home Monday.

He told IRNA upon arrival that his visit to Hungary was "fruitful" adding that it was aimed at consolidating Tehran-Budapest ties and exchanging views on the situation in the Balkans as well as the international development.

Velayati added that during his meetings with the Hungarian president, prime minister, parliament speaker and ministers of foreign affairs and economics, the two sides expressed concern over the situation in the Balkans and indecisiveness of the international community towards the Serbian crimes.

A cultural, educational and scientific cooperation plan was signed between Iran and Hungary at the end of the visit, he noted adding that a draft agreement on road transportation cooperation was prepared which is expected to be finalized and signed in Tehran when the Hungarian road minister visits Iran in a near future.

He further said that the two sides also discussed provision of consular facilities, increasing parliamentary cooperation and joint investment in the Central Asian republics.

The Iranian minister also visited Switzerland where he took part at the international forum foundation conference, held in Crans- Montana in which over 200 world leaders and other political, cultural and economic dignitaries took part.

Besides addressing the conference and outlining the stands of the Islamic republic towards the situation in Central Asia, the Caucasus region and the Balkans, particularly the Bosnian crisis, Velayati said that on the sideline of the seminar he also held meetings with a large number of high-ranking officials from various countries.

President of Kyrgyzstan Visits, Meets Officials

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Greets Akayev

LD2106081093 Tehran IRNA in English 0728 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 21, IRNA—Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev heading an eco-political delegation arrived here Monday and was greeted at the airport by his Iranian counterpart Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani. He told reporters upon arrival that the purpose of his visit was to promote Tehran-Bishkek political, economic and cultural ties. He added that important documents are to be signed between the two countries during the visit.

Also speaking to reporters, Rafsanjani said the visit will open a new chapter in bilateral relations and added that the Islamic Republic was prepared to cooperate with the newly-independent Kyrgyz Republic in all domains. He added that all the newly-independent Central Asian states were "very dear" to the Islamic Republic and "we are ready to cooperate with them in all domains, particularly within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)." Akayev is accompanied by the ministers of foreign afffairs and trade and natural resources as well as several other high- ranking cultural and economic officials.

First Round of Talks

LD2106170093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] The first round of talks between the presidents of Iran and Kyrgyzstan were held in Tehran this morning.

At the talks, referring to the importance of mutual ties, Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev, recounted his country's economic and commercial problems after gaining independence. He said: Kyrgyzstan desires extensive relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in all fields, particularly cultural, economic, and commercial, and to utilize Iran's valuable experience in the fields of banking and specialist training.

He said Iran's measures to expand air, land, sea, and rail routes with Central Asian countries was a fundamental and optimistic step toward increasing the volume of bilateral trade and contact between those [Central Asian] countries and other world countries.

While expressing gladness about the revival of the independent identity of Central Asian countries Iranian President Hashemi- Rafsanjani said: We consider as exceptional the opportunity that has come about for countries in the region and the rest of the world to revive ties and cooperation with those countries.

The president said Iran, in accordance with her religious and humanitarian mission, seeks to help the Muslim Central Asian countries. He said: We understand your domestic problems after gaining your independence and welcome any area in which you wish to cooperate with Iran.

Stressing the importance of collective cooperation between regional countries, in the form of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the expansion of communication routes between Iran and Central Asian countries was the first step toward the expansion of cooperation and commercial, technical and educational exchanges.

He said: Once Iran and Turkmenistan are connected by rail, and Iran's ports on the Caspian Sea are fortified and roads are improved, the trend of the expansion of cooperation and commercial ties between Iran and those countries, particularly Kyrgyzstan, will gain more momentum.

Confers With Velayati

NC2206062993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 22 Jun 93

[Text] The president of Kyrgyzstan, Askar Akayev, met our Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati, and expressed pleasure at his visit to Tehran and his talks with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The President of Kyrgyzstan, who is currently on a visit to Tehran on the invitation of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, stressed his country's eagerness to broaden bilateral and regional cooperation.

During this meeting, Dr. Velayati expressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's wish to expand cooperation with Kyrgyzstan in various political, economic, cultural, and scientific fields, as well as in the sphere of communications. He considered the establishment of a joint economic commission to assess the scope of cooperation between the two countries to be an appropriate measure.

The establishment of air routes and cooperation in educational and cultural matters were also discussed in the course of this meeting.

Akayev on Cooperation

LD2206083993 Tehran IRNA in English 0629 GMT 22 Jun 93

[Text] June 22, IRNA—The visiting Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev voiced his country's willingness to bolster mutual and regional cooperation with Iran.

Akayev who arrived here Monday morning on a 2-day official visit at the head of a delegation, made the remark in a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Monday evening.

Velayati also said Iran was eager to cooperate with Kyrgyzstan in various political, economic, cultural, scientific and communications fields. He also considered the formation of Iran-Kyrgyzstan joint economic commission as an appropriate step to explore avenues for cooperation.

The two sides also discussed establishment of air links as well as educational and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

In another development, Akayev paid tribute to the late founder of the Islamic republic Imam Khomeyni and laid wreaths of flowers on his grave.

Later, Akayev met with the late imam's son Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni and termed as fruitful Tehran-Bishkek cooperation. He stressed that the impact of the cooperation was very important for Kyrgyzstan as a newly independent country.

Kazazk Culture Minister, Delegation Visit 18 Jun

Khomeyni Meets With Minister

LD1806190493 Tehran IRNA in English 1547 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 18, IRNA—Kazakh Minister of Culture, Yerkegaliy Rakhmadiyev, met with Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni the son of the late leader of the Islamic revolution.

Hoj. Khomeyni welcomed the Kazakh delegation's visit to Iran and said common historical and cultural bond between the two countries was the most important factor for expansion of bilateral cooperation.

Islamic culture is the inspiration for the two country's and that they could have "constructive and positive" cooperation in various fields to the benefit of the Iranian and Kazakh people.

Rakhmadiyev pointed to the age-old common cultural and historical interests of the two countries and called for expansion of Tehran- Almaty cooperation and relations.

Rakhmadiyev's high ranking delegation to Iran includes the Kazakh ministers of press, sports and tourism.

Nateq-Nuri, Culture Minister Meet

LD1906193693 Tehran IRNA in English 1454 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 19, IRNA—Kazakh Minister of Culture Yerkegali Rakhmadiyev met with Iran's Majlis (parliament) Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here today and thanked Iran for facilitating the return home of Kazakh emigrants.

Some Kazakh Muslims had emigrated to Iran during the repressive communist era in the ex-Soviet Union.

Referring to the reconstruction process in Iran, Rakhmadiyev described it as an indication of development and a big step toward public welfare.

Nateq-Nuri in return underscored promotion of bilateral parliamentary ties and setting up of friendship groups in the two countries' parliaments in order to exchange experiences in law- making field.

During the meeting the Majlis speaker extended an invitation for his Kazakh counterpart Abdildim Serikbolsyn to visit Iran.

Rakhmadiyev's high ranking delegation to Iran also includes the Kazakh ministers of sports, tourism and press.

Further on Meeting With Nateq-Nuri

LD1906105893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Kazakhstan Culture Minister Rakhmadiyev, in a meeting this morning with the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly [Ahmad Nateq-Nuri], considered the trend of reconstruction in Iran to be a demonstration of progress and a step toward the nation's welfare. He thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for the facilities it has provided for the repatriation of Kazakhs who immigrated to Iran during the domination of the communist regime over Kazakhstan.

Nateq-Nuri, referring to the positive effect of the Kazakhstan president's visit to the Islamic Republic on the expansion of ties between the two countries and remarking on the effective role of cultural ties in bilateral relations, pointed out the activity of the Islamic Culture and Guidance Ministry in this regard and considered the organization of book fairs and other cultural activities in Kazakhstan by the ministry to be an important step in this issue.

The Majlis speaker, stressing the need to expand parliamentary relations, said that the formation of friendship groups in the two countries' assemblies for the exchange of legislative experience is a fundamental task.

Lebanese Defense Minister Arrives, Meets Officials

Arrives in Tehran

NC1906063593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has begun an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran for talks with Iranian counterpart Akbar Torkan on military affairs. He will also meet with Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In an arrival statement in Tehran yesterday evening, Dallul expressed hope that the talks with Iranian officials will be fruitful.

Besharati Receives Minister

LD1906210993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] The Lebanese defense minister met on Saturday afternoon with the our country's first deputy foreign minister and thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for providing aid toward solving the problems of Lebanon. In this meeting, Mr. Dallul reported on the latest Lebanese developments and emphasized the need to continue the national unity of all groups and to achieve the unconditional withdrawal of Zionist forces from southern Lebanon.

In turn, Mr. Besharati hailed the courageous resistance of the Lebanese people in the defense of their country and supported the continuation of the struggle and resistance against the aggressions of the regime occupying Qods.

Further Details on Besharati Meeting

LD2006170193 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 20, IRNA—Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul today thanked the Islamic Republic for its assistance to his country. In a meeting here on Sunday with First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, Dallul discussed the latest developments in Lebanon and underscored the need for lasting national unity among all groups in the country. He also stressed unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist regime's forces from southern Lebanon.

Besharati in return lauded the heroic resistance of the Lebanese people in defending their country and voiced Tehran's support for continuation of their resistance and struggle against the aggressions of the Zionist regime.

President on Israeli Aggression

LD2006152993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul. During the meeting, the president, welcoming the expansion of ties and cooperation with Lebanon, termed the aggression of the regime usurping Jerusalem against this country as a clear example of violation of a country's sovereignty and territorial integrity and infringement of international laws. While expressing concern towards the threats of the regime occupying Jerusalem against Lebanon, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that despite the overt and covert support given by some Western countries to Israel, the resistance of Lebanon's Army and Muslim revolutionary youths in the face of repeated violation of this aggressive regime is admirable. Expressing the hope for greater cooperation among Lebanon's tribes and responsible officials, the president added that through joint cooperation and combination of thoughts, a free and prosperous Lebanon will be rebuilt and we will always stand beside the Muslim nation of Lebanon.

The defense minister of Lebanon thanked the Iranian people and authorities for their affection and great sympathy towards the destiny of the Lebanese people, and presented a report on this country's socio-political and economic situation. While stressing that the Lebanese Army and nation are always alert, he said that the regime occupying Jerusalem, through its seditious and

divisive plots, is always trying to create discord and division among the Lebanese people but these conspiracies have been neutralized, thanks to coordination between the nation and the Army.

Minister Ends Visit, Departs

LD2106141293 Tehran IRNA in English 1259 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 21, (IRNA)—Lebanese defense minister, Muhsin Dallul, wound up his 3-day official visit and left here for home today, being seen off by his Iranian counterpart, Akbar Torkan.

In an interview before his departure, Dallul termed as "useful" talks with Iranian political and military officials and expressed hope that Tehran-Beirut cordial relations would deepen further.

In a meeting here before his departure, Dallul and Torkan explored ways and means for bilateral cooperation and its improvement.

Dallul arrived here on Friday heading a ranking military delegation on an official invitation extended by Torkan.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed With Mexico

LD2106171193 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 21, IRNA—The Mexican Foreign Ministry's Director for Asian-African Affairs, Jorge Chen, and Iranian Foreign Ministry's Director for American Affairs, Mohammad Husayn Fada'i- Fard, inked a memorandum of understanding here today.

The memorandum was signed at the opening session of the joint Iran-Mexico Committee for Political, Economic and Cultural Cooperation.

The document calls for expansion of bilateral ties in various fields such as culture, science, education, technology, economy and trade within the framework of a practical programme for 1993-94.

It also underlines the necessity for continuous contacts between officials of the two countries.

The memorandum also calls on Iran and Mexico to broaden their collaboration at the international bodies and organizations.

Persian Gulf Conference Set for Tehran 26-28 Jun

LD2106141593 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1315 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] At a news conference today, Mr [Abbas] Maleki, Iran's deputy foreign minister in charge of education, announced that the fourth conference on issues relating to the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman will be held from 26-28 June in Tehran. Maleki said: The gathering, which will be held to explore prospects for peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region, will host delegations from 15 countries.

Dubai Economic Delegation Visits Qeshm Island

LD1906163193 Tehran IRNA in English 1619 GMT 19 Jun 93

[Text] Dubai, June 19, IRNA—A high ranking economic delegation from Dubai, on Friday inspected projects underway on Iran's Qeshm Island which is fast coming up as the largest free trade zone in the region. The delegation led by head of the Jabal 'Ali free trade port Sultan Bin-Ahmad Salim, is in Bandar 'Abbas to explore ways of joint investment in Qeshm Island's development projects, said the Iranian consulate here today.

The delegation is also to hold talks with Iranian officials on ways of attracting capital from Persian Gulf states, especially the UAE, in development projects in the Iranian free trade zones of Kish, Qeshm and Chahbahar.

Memorandum on Ties Signed With Russia

LD1806224593 Tehran IRNA in English 1523 GMT 18 Jun 93

[Text] Moscow, June 18, IRNA—Iran and Russia inked a memorandum of understanding here Thursday to boost bilateral ties in industry, technology, education, research and trade fields.

The memorandum was signed by visiting Iranian Minister of Industries Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh and head of the Russian governmental Committee for Industrial Policies Igor Shurchkov.

According to the document the two sides have agreed to expand their cooperation in agriculture, electronics, pharmaceutics, petrochemicals, textiles, paper and wood industries. They also agreed to provide related companies with the required facilities.

The two officials also underlined the necessity for promotion of scientific collaboration through exchange of information and expertise and to sponsor scientific symposiums and seminars.

The document also calls for establishment of commercial and engineering companies either in the two countries or in a third country.

Velayati on Relations With Gulf, Egypt

PM1706115693 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 13-19 Jun 93 pp 40-41

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati by Fahmi Huwaydi in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati had just returned from his tour of the Gulf states—the tour which caused a clamor in various political circles. This clamor focused on its timing, as it followed President

Husni Mubarak's tour of the same states, and on its aims, as some people said it was an endeavor to "circumvent" the results of the Egyptian president's tour—thus categorizing the Iranian foreign minister's tour as a link in the series of confrontations witnessed between Cairo and Tehran.

I put to him my questions on this point, and he replied: It was the timing that provoked that clamor. The truth is that my tour of the Gulf region was planned before the announcement of President Mubarak's tour. To be specific, the idea crystallized during the Islamic states foreign ministers' meeting in Karachi last April. [passage omitted]

I asked him about the aims of the visit. He said: To continue the consultations which Iran is eager to conduct with the Gulf states in order to develop and consolidate relations. But the visit to Abu Dhabi was of special importance, because it opened a new page in the two countries' relations, broke the ice, and eliminated the tension that had occurred in these relations.

[Huwaydi] Does that mean that the outstanding issue of the islands [Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa] between Tehran and Abu Dhabi was discussed during the visit?

[Velayati] The issue was not raised for discussion. Discussions focused on the foundations and rules which should be adhered to in settling any disputes that emerge between the two countries. In this context, it was agreed that bilateral problems should be tackled through direct contacts between the two sides, without any third party's intervention, especially after it became clear that these interventions have had negative effects, increasing tension and complicating matters. [passage omitted]

[Huwaydi] What is the Iranian view of the Gulf security issue?

[Velayati] We do not at all insist on participating in all the decisions taken by the Arab states situated on the Gulf. But Iran's nonparticipation in decisions relating to Gulf security deprives them of substance from the objective angle and turns these decisions into a worthless political or propagandistic action. [Velayati ends]

Dr. Velayati pointed to a big map of the Gulf and Iran and said: Anyone who looks at that map fairly must realize that Iran is situated on half of the Gulf, while seven Arab states are on the other half. I do not know how can there be serious talk about Gulf security while ignoring the largest and most important state situated on it.

[Huwaydi] What is the true Iranian position on the Damascus declaration?

[Velayati] We have no serious sensitivities toward the Damascus declaration. Nor is it true that it is we who are opposed to it. We say clearly that, if the states signatory to it are able to implement it, let them go ahead and begin implementation.

It is some of the influential Western [as published] states in the region which are opposed to the implementation of the Damascus declaration. But accusing fingers are pointed at Iran, and those who point them do not want to point them at the real source of obstruction. When the time comes for the revelation of what is happening behind the scenes, everyone will know that it is not we who are placing obstacles in the way of this declaration.

There are states in the region which believe that they played a major role in the war to liberate Kuwait and that this gives them the right to reap the fruit of their position through the Damascus declaration. They are not happy to play this role while others reap the major part of the fruits. We believe that using the Damascus declaration as a means to obtain aid from the oil states robs it of substance, because the provision of aid does not need such a declaration.

At the same time we believe that drawing up a real and serious charter for security and defense requires criteria of a different kind and a completely different framework. For our part, we believe that the proposed Damascus charter formula does not differ much from other Arab pacts which tend to be concluded and terminated quickly. The experience of the quadripartite group which comprised Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Yemen is not too far away. It collapsed immediately after the occupation of Kuwait, as two states sympathized with Iraq and a third state—Egypt—stood in the opposite camp. [passage omitted]

[Huwaydi] What are Iran's priorities with regard to dealing with the Arab world?

[Velayati] Let us first determine the elements which affect these priorities. In my view, these elements are represented in several matters: geographical neighborhood, on the grounds that our neighbors share with us a common denominator of special importance. Then there is the Islamic affiliation, which constitutes a fundamental bond binding Iran to other states. There is also the revolutionary position. The more a state is revolutionary by Islamic standards, the closer it is to us. The fourth element is a state's position toward us and the way in which it deals with us, because a relationship cannot be established unilaterally. It is a mutual process which should be based on the two sides' interests.

If you want to know the priorities of Iranian policy, you have to get a list of the states you want and determine their positions on the basis of these criteria. The outcome will determine the pyramid of Iranian priorities in the Arab world. And in order to save some of your efforts, we believe that the Gulf Cooperation Council states and Syria occupy the top of the priorities pyramid.

[Huwaydi] Where does Egypt fit in that view?

[Velayati] Egypt occupies a precious and dear place in the Iranian heart. No one doubts that Egypt is one of the oldest and most respectable and important states which

influenced the Islamic culture. Relations between the two countries are deep-rooted and go back to the pre-Islam period.

Today, the call to revive Islamic values in Iran has resounded in many parts of the Islamic world, including Egypt. But it does not mean that we send people to carry out this mission, because ideas spread without the need to recruit individuals to spread them. [passage omitted])

[Huwaydi] Do you believe that communication channels between Egypt and Iran have been cut off?

[Velayati] That has not happened, nor have contacts and mutual influence between the two countries been interrupted. At present we can say that intellectual relations are continuing and have not been affected by the political atmosphere.

[Huwaydi] Nevertheless, no one can deny that there is a problem between Egypt and Iran?

[Velayati] True. And if we want to be accurate, we have to acknowledge that rapprochement between Egypt and Israel is the crux of the problem. This is because Israel has long worked against Egypt, and we are certain that the Israelis who frequent Egypt are spreading corruption there. At the same time we believe that Israel and Zionism are the source of many seditions and corruptions on earth. They pose an imminent threat to the interests of Islam and Muslims. [passage omitted]

[Huwaydi] Iran's name is now associated in people's minds with a group of terms like terrorism, export of revolution, ambitions in the Gulf, nuclear armament, and human rights violations. [question ends]

Dr. Velayati smiled and said: You forgot opposition to peace plans in the Middle East. When I included the latter on the list he said:

[Velayati] It is the latter position which caused accusations, defamation, and all ferocious campaigns to be launched against us. And we are certain that, if we change our position on the U.S.-Israeli settlement plan in the Middle East, all these accusations will automatically collapse, one by one.

It is not difficult to discover that any state that has a problem with the United States in particular tends to be subjected to this series of accusations, beginning with terrorism through to human rights violations—accusations which tend to encounter sympathy and are marketable among people.

They talk about Iranian armaments and exaggerate in their allegations. But if we look at the facts and figures, we will find that Iran spends on armaments less than what any other state in the region, or any other state similar to Iran, spends on armaments. At any rate, we are aware that we are paying a price for our position for the sake of defending Islam. We accept that and are proud of it. [passage omitted]

Velayati on Relations With Gulf, Egypt

PM1706115693 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 13-19 Jun 93 pp 40-41

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[Excerpts] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati had just returned from his tour of the Gulf states—the tour which caused a clamor in various political circles. This clamor focused on its timing, as it followed President Husni Mubarak's tour of the same states, and on its aims, as some people said it was an endeavor to "circumvent" the results of the Egyptian president's tour—thus categorizing the Iranian foreign minister's tour as a link in the series of confrontations witnessed between Cairo and Tehran.

I put to him my questions on this point, and he replied: It was the timing that provoked that clamor. The truth is that my tour of the Gulf region was planned before the announcement of President Mubarak's tour. To be specific, the idea crystallized during the Islamic states foreign ministers' meeting in Karachi last April. [passage omitted]

I asked him about the aims of the visit. He said: To continue the consultations which Iran is eager to conduct with the Gulf states in order to develop and consolidate relations. But the visit to Abu Dhabi was of special importance, because it opened a new page in the two countries' relations, broke the ice, and eliminated the tension that had occurred in these relations.

[Huwaydi] Does that mean that the outstanding issue of the islands [Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa] between Tehran and Abu Dhabi was discussed during the visit?

[Velayati] The issue was not raised for discussion. Discussions focused on the foundations and rules which should be adhered to in settling any disputes that emerge between the two countries. In this context, it was agreed that bilateral problems should be tackled through direct contacts between the two sides, without any third party's intervention, especially after it became clear that these interventions have had negative effects, increasing tension and complicating matters. [passage omitted]

[Huwaydi] What is the Iranian view of the Gulf security issue?

[Velayati] We do not at all insist on participating in all the decisions taken by the Arab states situated on the Gulf. But Iran's nonparticipation in decisions relating to Gulf security deprives them of substance from the objective angle and turns these decisions into a worthless political or propagandistic action. [Velayati ends]

Dr. Velayati pointed to a big map of the Gulf and Iran and said: Anyone who looks at that map fairly must realize that Iran is situated on half of the Gulf, while seven Arab states are on the other half. I do not know

how can there be serious talk about Gulf security while ignoring the largest and most important state situated on it.

[Huwaydi] What is the true Iranian position on the Damascus declaration?

[Velayati] We have no serious sensitivities toward the Damascus declaration. Nor is it true that it is we who are opposed to it. We say clearly that, if the states signatory to it are able to implement it, let them go ahead and begin implementation.

It is some of the influential Western [as published] states in the region which are opposed to the implementation of the Damascus declaration. But accusing fingers are pointed at Iran, and those who point them do not want to point them at the real source of obstruction. When the time comes for the revelation of what is happening behind the scenes, everyone will know that it is not we who are placing obstacles in the way of this declaration.

There are states in the region which believe that they played a major role in the war to liberate Kuwait and that this gives them the right to reap the fruit of their position through the Damascus declaration. They are not happy to play this role while others reap the major part of the fruits. We believe that using the Damascus declaration as a means to obtain aid from the oil states robs it of substance, because the provision of aid does not need such a declaration.

At the same time we believe that drawing up a real and serious charter for security and defense requires criteria of a different kind and a completely different framework. For our part, we believe that the proposed Damascus charter formula does not differ much from other Arab pacts which tend to be concluded and terminated quickly. The experience of the quadripartite group which comprised Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Yemen is not too far away. It collapsed immediately after the occupation of Kuwait, as two states sympathized with Iraq and a third state—Egypt—stood in the opposite camp. [passage omitted]

[Huwaydi] What are Iran's priorities with regard to dealing with the Arab world?

[Velayati] Let us first determine the elements which affect these priorities. In my view, these elements are represented in several matters: geographical neighborhood, on the grounds that our neighbors share with us a common denominator of special importance. Then there is the Islamic affiliation, which constitutes a fundamental bond binding Iran to other states. There is also the revolutionary position. The more a state is revolutionary by Islamic standards, the closer it is to us. The fourth element is a state's position toward us and the way in which it deals with us, because a relationship cannot be established unilaterally. It is a mutual process which should be based on the two sides' interests.

If you want to know the priorities of Iranian policy, you have to get a list of the states you want and determine their positions on the basis of these criteria. The outcome will determine the pyramid of Iranian priorities in the Arab world. And in order to save some of your efforts, we believe that the Gulf Cooperation Council states and Syria occupy the top of the priorities pyramid.

[Huwaydi] Where does Egypt fit in that view?

[Velayati] Egypt occupies a precious and dear place in the Iranian heart. No one doubts that Egypt is one of the oldest and most respectable and important states which influenced the Islamic culture. Relations between the two countries are deep-rooted and go back to the pre-Islam period.

Today, the call to revive Islamic values in Iran has resounded in many parts of the Islamic world, including Egypt. But it does not mean that we send people to carry out this mission, because ideas spread without the need to recruit individuals to spread them. [passage omitted])

[Huwaydi] Do you believe that communication channels between Egypt and Iran have been cut off?

[Velayati] That has not happened, nor have contacts and mutual influence between the two countries been interrupted. At present we can say that intellectual relations are continuing and have not been affected by the political atmosphere.

[Huwaydi] Nevertheless, no one can deny that there is a problem between Egypt and Iran?

[Velayati] True. And if we want to be accurate, we have to acknowledge that rapprochement between Egypt and Israel is the crux of the problem. This is because Israel has long worked against Egypt, and we are certain that the Israelis who frequent Egypt are spreading corruption there. At the same time we believe that Israel and Zionism are the source of many seditions and corruptions on earth. They pose an imminent threat to the interests of Islam and Muslims. [passage omitted]

[Huwaydi] Iran's name is now associated in people's minds with a group of terms like terrorism, export of revolution, ambitions in the Gulf, nuclear armament, and human rights violations. [question ends]

Dr. Velayati smiled and said: You forgot opposition to peace plans in the Middle East. When I included the latter on the list he said:

[Velayati] It is the latter position which caused accusations, defamation, and all ferocious campaigns to be launched against us. And we are certain that, if we change our position on the U.S.-Israeli settlement plan in the Middle East, all these accusations will automatically collapse, one by one.

It is not difficult to discover that any state that has a problem with the United States in particular tends to be subjected to this series of accusations, beginning with

terrorism through to human rights violations—accusations which tend to encounter sympathy and are marketable among people.

They talk about Iranian armaments and exaggerate in their allegations. But if we look at the facts and figures, we will find that Iran spends on armaments less than what any other state in the region, or any other state similar to Iran, spends on armaments. At any rate, we are aware that we are paying a price for our position for the sake of defending Islam. We accept that and are proud of it. [passage omitted]

DPRK Missiles for Iran in Secret Deal With Iraqi Oil

PM1806152293 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jun 93 p 1

[Report by Walid Abi-Murshid: "In Three-Way Trade Operation, Korean Missile Deal for Iran To Be Financed by Iraqi Oil Exports"]

[Text] London—Through contacts shrouded in almost complete secrecy Iran, Iraq, and North Korea are negotiating a three-way deal in which Iran plays the role of a broker to sell to North Korea a quantity of Iraqi oil worth $120 million, provided that the revenue is shared equally between Tehran and Baghdad. Information obtained by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from informed sources indicates that Iran's share of the revenue from this deal, that is $60 million, will be allocated to financing its purchase of Korean long-range missiles.

The tripartite agreement stipulates that North Korea is to be supplied with 15,000 barrels of crude oil a day at a price ranging between only $8 and $10 dollars a barrel, that is, less than half the market price.

Under this deal, which breaks both the embargo imposed on Iraq's oil exports and the price targeted by OPEC, Baghdad gets half the price of every barrel sold to North Korea, that is between $4 and $5. The other half is to be transferred directly to Iran to cover the long-range missiles deal.

In view of the Koreans' insistence on concealing the Iraqi source of oil, it has been agreed that Baghdad will transport the oil by land to Iranian territory for export by sea to North Korea via Bandar-e 'Abbas Port.

According to the sources, Iran is conducting the negotiations at two levels: Iranian-Korean and Iranian-Iraqi. At the Iranian-Korean level, the negotiations with Pyongyang are supervised by the Iranian Defense Ministry. They are led by Deputy Defense Minister Ahmad Wahedi, who is assisted by Montaqi, head of the missile department at the ministry, and Tabaqi, representative of the Revolutionary Guard in Pyongyang.

At the Iranian-Iraqi level, the negotiations with Iraq are supervised by the Foreign Ministry, represented by Khwansari, adviser to the foreign minister, and his assistant Tomani. From the Iraqi side the negotiations are supervised by Husayn Kamil Salih, in his capacity as the official in charge of military industries and oil affairs, and his assistant Safa al-Habbubi.

It has been leaked from the negotiations in question that it has been agreed that North Korea transfer through the Korean Central Bank for Foreign Trade the sum of $60 million to the Iranian Central Bank in Tehran, provided that the sum is transferred to the Iranian "Saderat" Bank to an Iraqi account to be opened to that end. As for Iran's revenue from this deal, that is $60 million, it is to be transferred directly to the North Korean bank Chang Wang [as transliterated] to cover the value of the missile deal.

President Warns of 'Superficial' View of Economy

LD2006154993 Tehran IRNA in English 1508 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 20, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani today cautioned the people against making superficial assessment of the country's problems, and called it an "error" to ignore future needs and acting without provident.

Adressing a gathering of ulema on the eve of the mourning month of Moharram, Rafsanjani said selling natural resources to meet people's consumption needs and secure public welfare was something simple but "irrational".

The cheap selling of natural resources would make the nation poor and destitute with a toothless economy unable to meet even Iran's most basic needs when resources dry out, he said.

Iran is a rich and talented country and, stated the president: "We would realize our objectives if we manage to diversify our national resources, oil in particular, to build plants, roads, dams, and in general to reconstruct the country."

By putting petrochemical plants into operation, he said, the industries' needs of raw materials would be met domestically.

Building infrastructural projects to develop the country and cutting down its dependence is a costly job, which however, would be accomplished with people's patience, awareness and their presence in the scene.

He felt confident that Iran would leave behind the reconstruction era with people's support.

Guardians Council Confirms Validity of Elections

LD2006105193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Excerpt] After attending today's open session of the Majlis, the Council of Guardians met and reviewed records and files pertaining to the Islamic Republic of

Iran's sixth presidential elections. After necessary appraisals and debates, the council unanimously confirmed the validity of the election. [Passage omitted]

Pakistan

President Urges 'New Thinking' for Harmony

BK2206031093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Jun 93

[Text] At the beginning of the new Hegira year today, the president and the prime minister have urged the nation to adopt new thinking and a new mode of action and to renew their pledge to work for the promotion of Islamic values, national harmony, economic progress, and the country's stability.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in his message said the first day and the first month of the new Hegira year are very significant and sacred for the Muslims and remind us of the traditions of the faith-enkindling struggle and great sacrifices to keep the flag of truth aloft in Islamic history. He said the new Hegira year requires us—individually and collectively—to make a critical review of the successes and failures of the Islamic world during the last year and analyze their causes, factors, effects, and consequences. The president said it is only through this kind of analysis that the Islamic world will be able to further enhance its energy and capability, draw inspiration from its successes, learn lessons from failures, and devise a plan of action to remove defects and shortcomings.

The president said the current internal situation demands that we adopt new thinking and a new mode of action which should help utilize our national energies to create an atmosphere of harmony, understanding, and accommodation and cooperation, instead of unnecessary confrontation, which is indispensable for meeting the great challenges of national reconstruction and development.

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in his message reminded all that the country is passing through a historic era, and by the grace of God the nation is united to face threats posed to democracy. He said the sectarian harmony in the ranks of the nation is encouraging and this augurs well for national unity and solidarity. The prime minister said his government is striving sincerely to fulfill the promises it made to the nation.

He said when we are all the standard-bearers of the lofty objectives of people's prosperity, the country's stability, and the development of democratic institutions, there should not be any difficulty in adopting a collective plan of action and achieving a consensus to realize these objectives. The prime minister called upon the nation to renew its pledge not to flinch from any sacrifice to make Pakistan a strong and great country and not to sacrifice principles to achieve temporary objectives. Nawaz Sharif also called upon the Islamic world to devote all its energies to the welfare and well-being of the Islamic community to put the Islamic world on the path of development.

Parliament Discusses Constitution, Eighth Amendment

BK2006144093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Excerpts] The National Assembly today adopted a resolution to constitute a house committee to consider anomalies and amendments in the Constitution, especially the controversial Eighth Amendment. The resolution was moved by Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani of PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] which was widely supported by members from both sides of the house. The speaker, Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan, will constitute a committee in consultation with the leader of the House, leader of the Opposition and head of parliamentary parties.

Proposing the formation of the committee, Mr. Gilani said the committee should work day and night to present its report. Participating in the debate on the budget, Mr. Gilani said the Eighth Amendment is an issue agitating the mind of the whole nation. It should be repealed forthwith. He said now is the time that Parliament should play its role. Political stability cannot return without the repeal of the Eighth Amendment. He urged the members of the house to think in the larger interest of the nation, keeping aside their party affiliation.

The law minister, Chaudhary Abdul Gafoor, lauding Mr. Gilani's proposal, said it is time to think of the nation, putting all differences aside. He said he was ready to provide all sorts of assistance to the proposed committee.

All the members, except one, who spoke on the resolution strongly pleaded for the repeal of the Eighth Amendment saying it was the root cause of political instability in the country. [passage omitted].

Most of the speakers, including a number of PDA members were of the view that the resolution tabled by Gilani is in the best interest of the nation and democracy. Some Opposition members were of the view that they support the repeal of the Eighth Amendment, but it would have been better if the resolution was tabled after consultation with party leaders.

Later, talking to newsmen, the prime minister welcomed the adoption of the resolution to form a house committee to examine constitutional provisions and described it as a right step in the right direction. He congratulated PDA member Mr. Iftikhar Hussain Gilani for tabling the resolution. The resolution, he said, reflects the aspirations of 120 million people of Pakistan whose sentiments were witnessed by him after the dissolution of the National Assembly.

Gilani's Eighth Amendment Move Lacks PDA Backing

BK2106035293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] Sardar Farooq Leghari, the deputy leader of the opposition, says the proposal forwarded yesterday by Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, the National Assembly member belonging to the People's Democratic Alliance [PDA], for establishment of a house committee to examine amendments to the Constitution is not his party's stand but Gilani's own personal viewpoint. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad yesterday evening, he said the manner in which the ruling party members have supported this proposal may create complexities in the ongoing dialogue between the government and the opposition. He said opposition leader Benazir Bhutto had fully explained the PDA viewpoints on national issues during her budget speech in the National Assembly.

Sharif: 'Good Results' Seen From Charter Committee

BK2106113893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 21 Jun 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said the formation of the committee by the National Assembly to consider removal of the Eighth Amendment and other anomalies in the Constitution will yield good results. Talking to newsmen at the Sukkur Airport today, he said the process of political dialogue is under way both inside and outside the assembly and this will strengthen democracy and improve the shape of the Constitution. The prime minister had a round of Sukkur city in an open jeep. Addressing the people gathered at Chowk Ghanti Ghar, he said he was happy to note that the Babul [the gateway of] Islam—Sindh—is again the bastion of peace and brotherhood and its people have rejected all sorts of prejudices.

Earlier, addressing a gathering at Kote Mazari, a village of kachcha [rural] area near Sukkur, the prime minister declared that the distribution of hundreds of thousands of acres of state land among the landless haris [poor peasants] in kachcha areas will continue without hindrance. He said this distribution of land among the landless haris is no intervention in the provincial matters.

Court Bars Arrest of 138 Punjab Assembly Members

BK2206033793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Jun 93

[Text] The Lahore High Court has directed the Punjab police not to arrest 138 members of the provincial assembly belonging to Chaudhary Parvez Elahi group without the prior permission of the court. Justice Khalid Iqbal Khwaja has issued this order in response to a joint petition filed by the assembly members. The petition had stated that the police are trying to arrest them on false charges, so that they cannot attend the next session of the provincial assembly. The court has directed the advocate general of Punjab to submit the complete list of criminal cases against the petitioners. The hearing in the cases against the petitioners has been suspended after the presentation of the list of such cases by the advocate general.

The Pakistan Muslim League parliamentary party, Punjab, held its meeting in Islamabad yesterday under the chairmanship of parliamentary party leader Chaudhary Parvez Elahi. A total of 135 members participated in the meeting, which adopted a resolution demanding the immediate resignation of Punjab Chief Minister Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo who has lost the majority in the house. The resolution also requested the speaker to convene a session of the assembly, so that the budget can be approved before 30 June and the province can be saved from further problems.

Reaction to Raids of Kansi Tribal Areas, Homes

Delegation Meets Governor

BK2106133093 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 18 Jun 93 p 11

[Text] Quetta June 17—A representative delegation of the Kansi tribe called on the Governor Balochistan, Sardar Gul Mohammad Khan Jogezai here today.

The delegation apprised the Governor of the situation caused by search raids carried out by a federal agency on the houses of Kansi community on Wednesday last.

Meanwhile, the Awami National Party (ANP) and Pushtum Khiva Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) have slated yesterday's search raids, carried out by the FC [Frontier Corps] personnel on several points in the city for tracing Aimal Kansi, wanted by the American Government in murder case of two CIA officials.

The Governor guaranteed a sympathetic hearing and assured the delegates that he would approach the relevant agency, asking them to ensure that no such incident occurs again.

It may be mentioned the FC forces reportedly conducted search raids yesterday on some houses of the Kansi community in a bid to trace one Aimal Khan Kansi, wanted by the American Government in a murder case of the two CIA officials.

Aimal Kansi, a resident of Quetta hailing from a Kansi family, could not be arrested during the raids.

The ANP Press release issued here said "The manner in which the search raids were conducted is against the traditions of the area."

CIA Search for Aimal Kansi Resented

BK2106135593 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 18 Jun 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad—Awami National Party [ANP] Balochistan has resented the raids of the Frontier Constabulary in Quetta for he arrest of Aimal Kansi who allegedly killed CIA personnel in the United States several months ago.

A delegation of the ANP reached the capital to take up the issue with its central leadership. Aurangzeb Kansi, a member of the CEC [Central Executive Committee] of the ANP informed his leader, Aimal Khatak, about the details of the (?raids). The Pakhtoon leader assured the members of his party he would discuss the issue with Federal Interior Minister Chaudhary Shujat Bussain.

However, Aimal Khatak, when contacted by this correspondent, was tight-lipped to give any comment on the issue. The delegation believed the raids were conducted as a result of extraordinary foreign pressure.

Absconding Aimal Kansi has become a challenge for CIA bosses who consider every inch of the Earth within their reach. Yet, with all available resources, the killer of its members is still out of reach. Those with even a little knowledge of influence of CIA can hardly believe that a portion of world was beyond its access.

Kansi Tribes Indignant

BK2106133293 Lahore PAKISTAN in Urdu 18 Jun 93 pp 1, 7

[By Political Reporter]

[Text] Islamabad—The raids and house searches conducted by the U.S. CIA force in the Kansi Tribe area for the arrest of Aimal Kansi have created serious indignation among the Kansi tribes. This was stated by Aurangzeb Kansi, a chieftain of the Kansi tribe, while talking to newsmen in the Parliament House Cafeteria. He said the different tribes in Balochistan have their own customs and traditions, with violations considered unforgivable. He asked why the entire Kansi Tribe is being punished for a crime committed by Aimal Kansi. Had Aimal Kansi been among us, we would have handed him over immediately, because we have no sympathy for him. But, our traditions are being trampled upon. The U.S. CIA, by entering into our community and raiding our houses, is violating the privacy of our womenfolk and the dignity and honor of our families, he said. Aurangzeb Kansi, who belongs to the Awami National Party, met his party president Ajmal Khattak and informed him of all the details. Ajmal Khattak promised to raise the issue at the National Assembly and said steps will be taken to prevent such excesses there.

PQP 'Strongly Condemned' Raid

BK2106133493 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 19 Jun 93 p 5

[Text] Peshawar—The Pakhtoonhkhwa Waumi Party (PQP) has strongly condemned the Frontier Corps raids on the houses of law- abiding Kansi tribesmen in Quetta in order to nab Aimal Kansi.

In a statement, the PQP argued that the raids violated provincial autonomy as the Balochistan government was kept in the dark by the federal government while taking such a major decision.

Moreover, the statement said it was a negation of human rights as no warrants were produced while entering the houses of respectable Kansis in and around Quetta. The PQP said the raids violated Pakhtoon traditions of privacy and honour.

The press release said the Nawaz government was trampling its claims of respect for provincial autonomy and fundamental human rights.

PQP leader Nayyar Zaman has also condemned the raids and said honourable Kansi Pakhtoons have been dishonoured in a very crude way.

Bhutto Concerned Over Raids

BK2106133993 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 18 Jun 93 p 8

[Text] Karachi—Benazir Bhutto, co-chairperson, Pakistan People's Party [PPP] and leader of the opposition has expressed concern over the raids conducted in different parts of Quetta by the fereral agencies including the Frontier Corps, without taking into confidence the provincial chief minister or other provincial authorities.

She said such interference in the affairs of the provincial government without taking them into confidence would create complications for the federation which is already under strain due to the actions in Punjab.

She further advised the fereral government not to conduct such raids without informing the provincial authorities.

Minister Rejects Allegations on Raids

BK2206082493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 22 Jun 93

[Text] Interior Minister Chaudhary Shujat Hussain informed the National Assembly this morning that the Frontier Corps Constabulary squads conducted raids at nine places in Quetta recently to arrest Aimal Kansi involved in murders in the United States.

Speaking in response to a call-attention notice moved by Mahmud Khan Achakzai, Liaqat Baloch, Mohammad Afzal Khan, and Mohammad Ajmal Khan Khattak, he said all these squads were accompanied by the magistrate, who dismisses the allegations that the raids were

conducted without the permission of the provincial government. He added that the residents of the houses that were raided have not complained about any mistreatment by the raiding teams.

Four Indian Soldiers Killed on Line of Control

BK2206075593 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 22 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] Muzaffraabad, June 21—Four Indian troops were killed and two injured seriously on Line of Control yesterday in a fierce fighting between Indian and Pakistani troops.

According to details Indian army has been engaged in firing on civilians in last few days. Landmines are hitting villagers and cattle. Reports said when Indian army attacked civilians, Pakistani troops warned them and then opened fire and killed four troops while two were seriously injured.

Clash took place in Sadhpur area in Leepa sector. The situation is tense since June 19 when four Kashmiri youth were martyred.

Coup Plotters in Egypt Said Afghan War Veterans

BK2206064993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 21 Jun 93 p 12

[Text] Peshawar—The Muslim activist executed in Egypt on June 13 and the seven others condemned to death for plotting to overthrow the government of President Husni Mubarak had all fought in Afghanistan alongside Afghan mojahedin.

Egyptians living in Pehawar told THE NEWS Sunday the reason why the eight Muslim activists were convicted was because they all had received military training while fighting in Afghanistan and could prove dangerous to destabilise Husni Mubarak's government.

Sherif Hassan Ahmed, hanged in a prison in Alexandria, was the first Egyptian to be executed for a politically-motivated crime since the hanging of the assassins of President Anwar Sadat in 1982. The other seven were reported to have been tried by the military court in absentia.

The Peshawar-based Egyptians, however, said one of those convicted had evaded arrest while the remaining six were languishing in Egypt's jails. They informed that six more [words indistinct] who too had fought against the former Moscow-backed Afghan government in Afghanistan, were also awaiting execution after being convicted in almost similar circumstances by a military court.

The case of the eight Egyptian convicts was widely followed both in Egypt and abroad as it came to be known as the case of the "Returnees from Afghanistan". The Egyptians who came to Peshawar and Afghanistan, like Arabs from elsewhere, were known as Arab-Afghans. Majority of them wanted to wage an armed struggle against the pro-West Husni Mubarak government in Egypt.

Abu Hamea, an Egyptian living in Peshawar, told "THE NEWS" only two Kalashnikov rifles were recovered from Sherif Hassan's house. He said the military court depended mostly on intelligence services to frame imaginary charges against the Muslim activists. He said those arrested were declared terrorists or blamed as members of previously unknown splinter Islamist groups if it suited the interests of the Egyptian government.

"History has shown us that the more Muslim blood is sacrificed the better rooted the Islamic movement becomes", remarked Abu Harmea. "We need quality, not quantity, because the huge number of Muslims in the world due to their lack of unity are powerless while a few better Muslims could make a big difference due to their dedication", said Abu Hamea. He added that Egypt would not be able to [words indistinct] victimising them.

Between 1987 1993, as many as 1,142 Egyptians were registered upon their arrival in NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province]. They in fact constituted the highest number from any Arab country among the 6,170 Arabs who came to Pakistan either to take part in the Afghan 'jehad' or pursue humanitarian work. Next came the Saudis (881) and the Yemenis (948).

During the same period, 548 Egyptians, according to official figures, were reported to have left Pakistan. The remaining registered Egyptians total 594, again the highest among 2,830 Arabs from other countries who still live in Pakistan.

Egyptians living in Peshawar said most of their countrymen had either left or were planning to leave, especially after the recent crackdown by the Peshawar police. They said a number of Egyptians might have crossed over into neighbouring Afghanistan to escape arrest and deportation.

Among the wanted Egyptians are Mohammad Shawki (?Islamboult), younger brother of Captain Khalid (?Islamboult) who was executed after being convicted for assassinating President Anwar Saadat in 1982, and Talat Qasim. Both are stated to be living somewhere in Afghanistan.

At least two Egyptian delegations, including one comprising military and intelligence officers, were reported to have visited Pakistan in recent months to hold [words indistinct] authorities and demand arrest and deportation of Egyptians wanted by their government.

The Pakistan government in its campaign against Arabs in NWFP was able to nab only those who were overstaying or lacked proper documents. Government officials said Pakistan has yet to be provided specific documents by the concerned Arab countrties about those accused of involvement in criminal or terrorist activities.

Another Batch of Bosnian Refugees Arrives

BK2006150893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Jun 93

[Text] The National Assembly today unanimously adopted a resolution welcoming the arrival of oppressed and shelterless Bosnian refugees in Pakistan. The resolution, moved by Mr. Liaqat Baloch, strongly condemned the massacre of men, women and children. The House observed that the provision of weapons and resources to Serbs against the Bosnian people is an open violation of the United Nations rules and regulations. It is the need of the hour that the United Nations, Nonaligned Movement and the Islamic Conference Organization should play their role in protecting freedom, security, fundamental rights, and life and honor of the Bosnian people.

Another 113 Bosnian refugees flew into Islamabad today by a special chartered flight. Originally 260 Bosnians were scheduled to arrive today, but 147 of them were stopped by Croats from boarding the plane. The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, and the Bosnian ambassador in Pakistan, Mrs. Seldija, were at the airport to receive the Bosnian refugees. The plane was sent on a special directive of the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, to evacuate the Bosnian people fearing genocide in Croatia. Those flown to Pakistan included men, women, children and some patients. The first batch of 266 Bosnian refugees were flown to Islamabad on Friday.

Talking to PTV Representative Syed Sajid Shah, the Bosnian refugees narrated harrowing tales of misery and proesecution.

[Begin recording] [unidentified Bosnian male refugee] I am soldier. I was wounded in one action near a place in Sarajevo. This horrible war, this horrible agony—we must fight. Insh'allah, we will win. But we cannot fight without weapons, no. This is our problem. We have fighters, we have men to fight, who want to fight. But we do not have weapons.

[Another unidentified young Bosnian refugee] They are very bad and killing people, harmless. We do not have arms, we do not have weapons. [end recording]

The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Jhan Kanjoo, reaffirmed Pakistan's policy and said Bosnian refugees have been flown in keeping with the spirit of Islamic brotherhood.

[Begin Kanjoo recording] This is second contingent. We will try to look after them in spite of our limited resources, and we feel committed on the humanitarian ground and on the ground that we share the same faith as well. [end recording]

The refugees have temporarily been lodged at (Madinatul Hujaj) from where they will be shifted to colder regions of the country. Special arrangements have been made at (Madinatul Hujaj) for their lodging and every care is being taken to provide them all necessary facilities, including food and medicare.

The federal minister for health, Syed Taslim Nawaz Gardezi, today visited (Madinatul Hujaj) to ensure that adequate medical facilities are available for the Bosnian refugees. The minister went round the different wards of the medical center and enquired from the patients about the medicare. The minister was informed that doctors and paramilitary staff are available round-the-clock and sufficient quantities of medicines are available in the medical center.